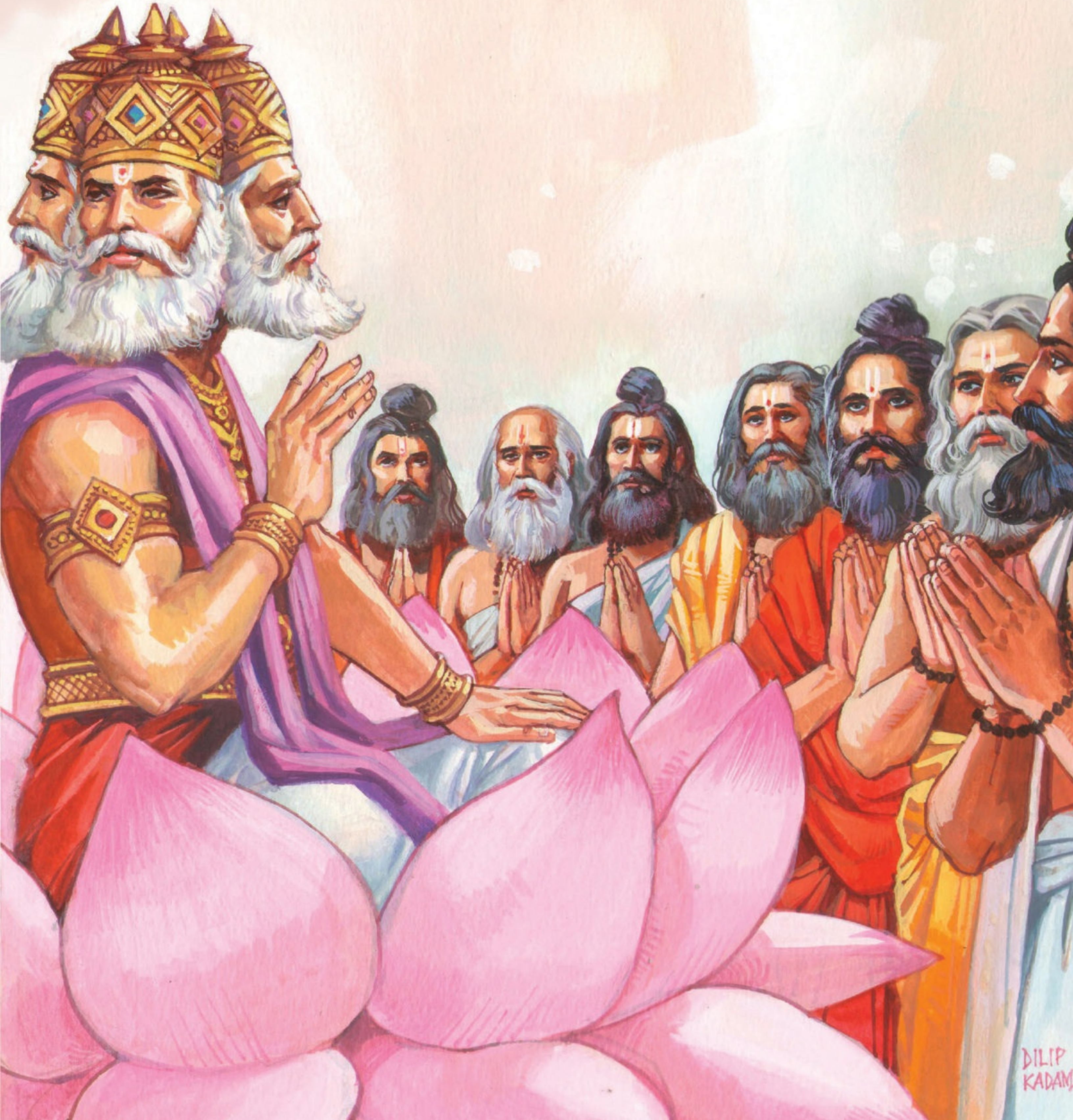
AMAR
CHITRA
KATHA

SAPTARSHI

The Seven Supreme Sages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SAPTARSHI

The Seven Supreme Sages

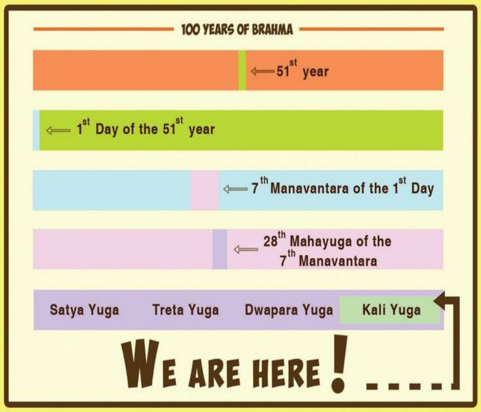
CYCLE OF TIME

There are **24 HOURS** *in a day and*
365 DAYS *in a year,*
but that's just here on **EARTH**.

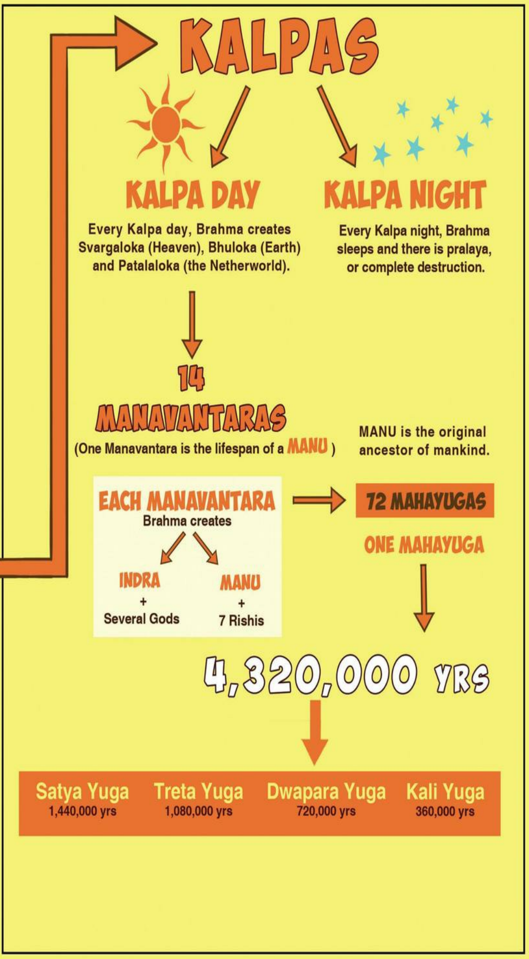
How long are **BRAHMA'S DAYS AND YEARS,**
and how much does he accomplish as the creator of the universe **?**

BRAHMA

lives for 100 Brahma years, after which he is replaced by a new Brahma. Each Brahma year is made up of 360 Brahma days and nights called


100 YEARS OF BRAHMA
51st year
1st Day of the 51st year
7th Manavantara of the 1st Day
28th Mahayuga of the 7th Manavantara
Satya Yuga
Treta Yuga
Dwapara Yuga
Kali Yuga

WE ARE HERE ! ....



KALPAS

KALPA DAY

Every Kalpa day, Brahma creates Svargaloka (Heaven), Bhuloka (Earth) and Patalaloka (the Netherworld).

KALPA NIGHT

Every Kalpa night, Brahma sleeps and there is pralaya, or complete destruction.

14 MANAVANTARAS

(One Manavantara is the lifespan of a **MANU**)

MANU is the original ancestor of mankind.

EACH MANAVANTARA
Brahma creates

INDRA
+
Several Gods

MANU
+
7 Rishis

72 MAHAYUGAS

ONE MAHAYUGA

4,320,000 YRS

Satya Yuga	Treta Yuga	Dwapara Yuga	Kali Yuga
1,440,000 yrs	1,080,000 yrs	720,000 yrs	360,000 yrs

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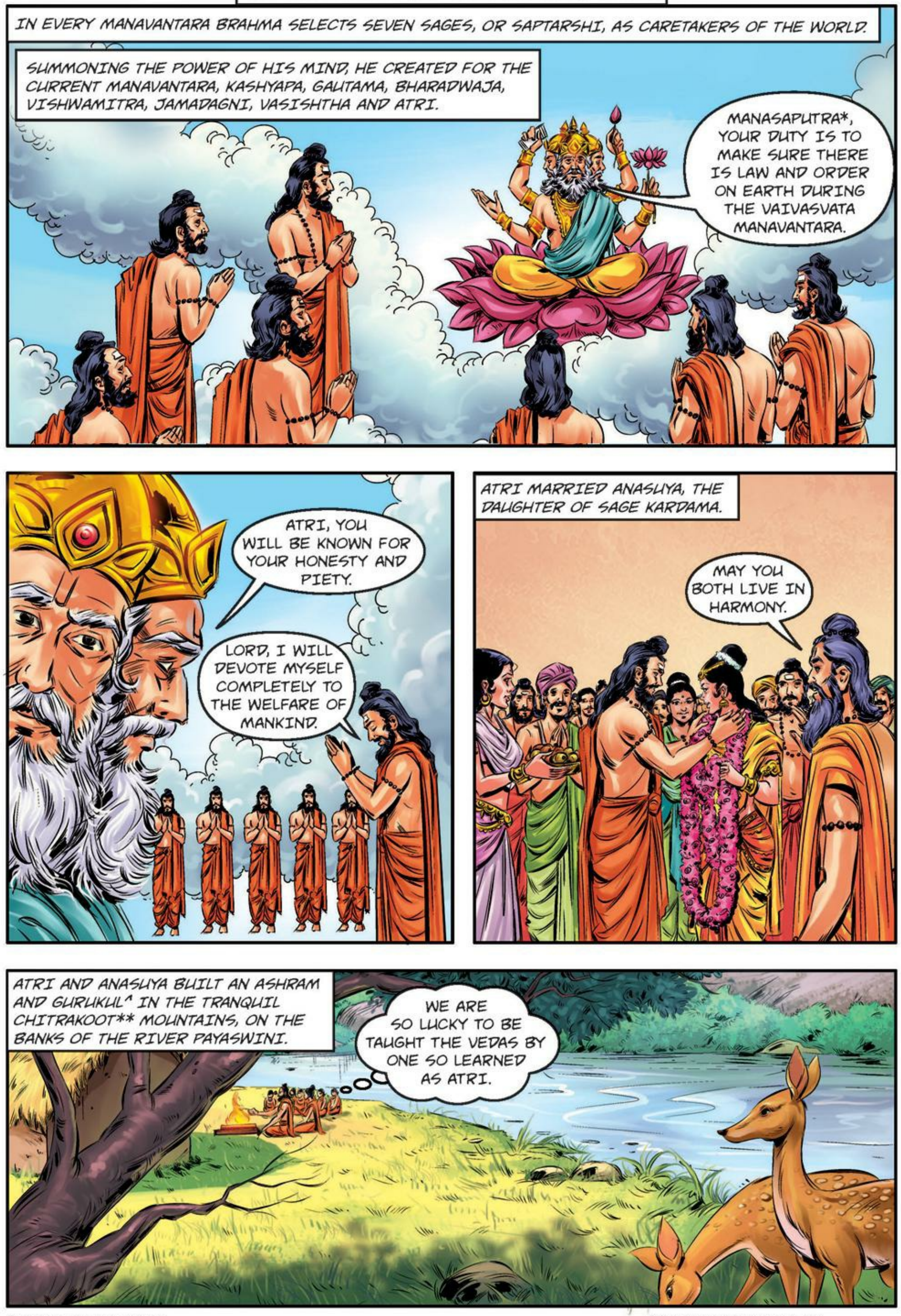
Script Writer: Vanishree Mahesh
'Vishwamitra' Script Writer: Kamala Chandrakant
Colourists: Adarsh Achari, Ramesh C.
Assistant Colourist: Silambarasan K.
Letterists: Aparna Kapur, Sivajith S., B.S. Ravikiran

Cover Art: Dilip Kadam
Art Director: Savio Mascarenhas
Executive Editor: Reena Ittyerah Puri

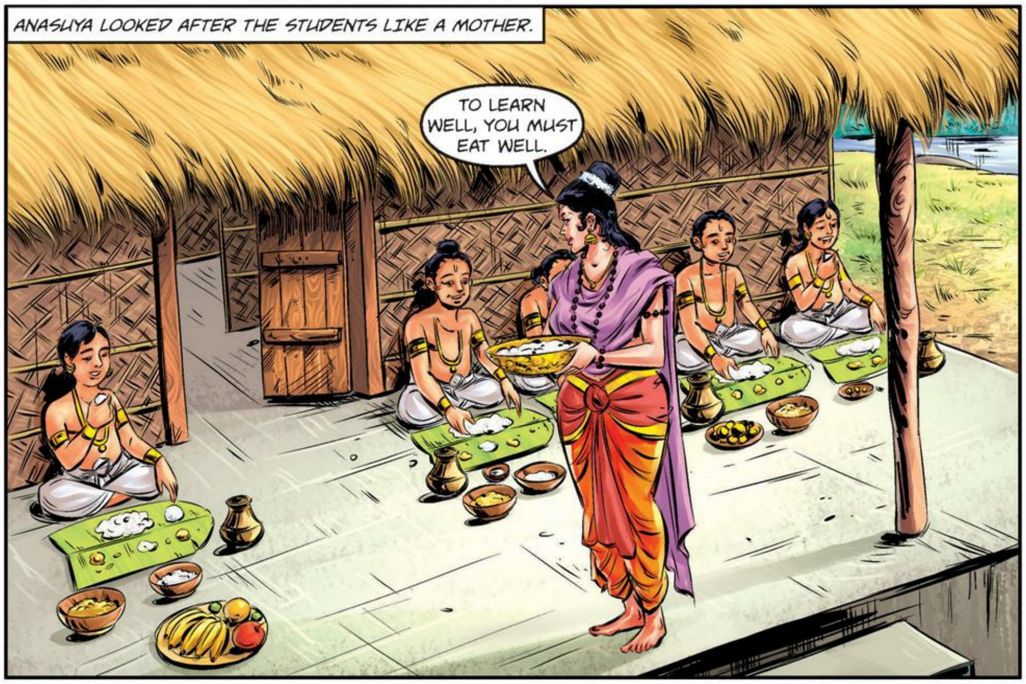
ATRI AND ANASUYA

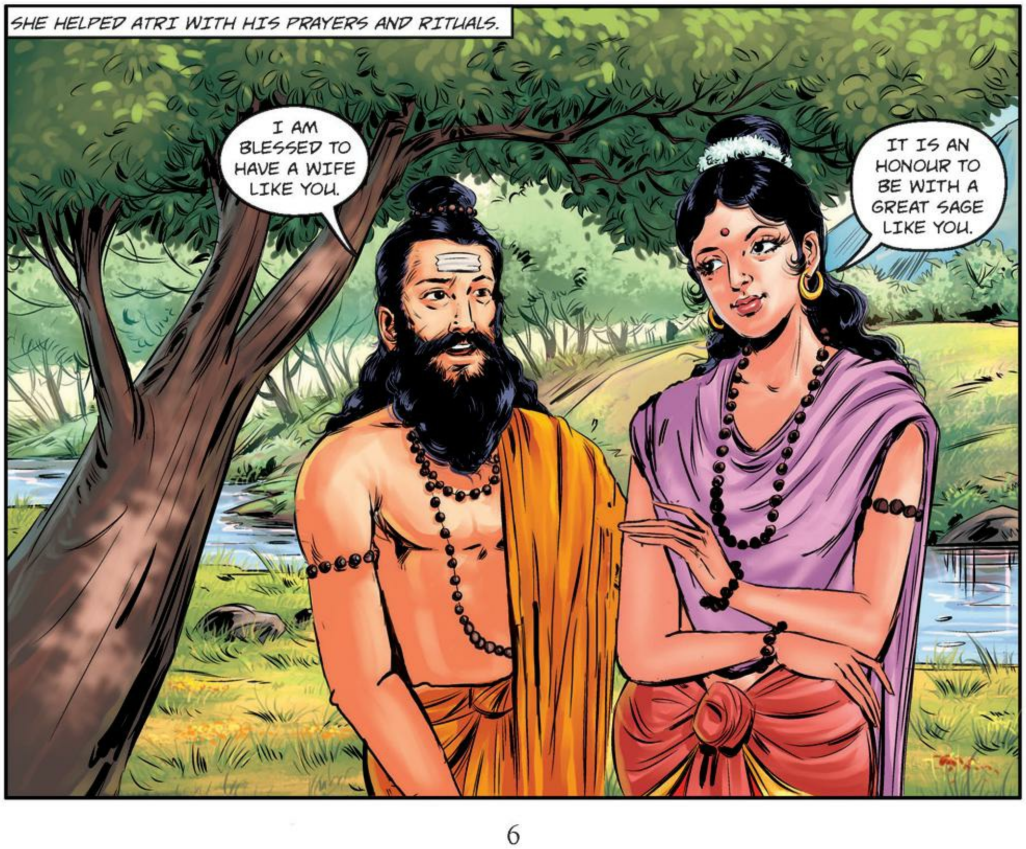

IN EVERY MANAVANTARA BRAHMA SELECTS SEVEN SAGES, OR SAPTARSHI, AS CARETAKERS OF THE WORLD.
SUMMONING THE POWER OF HIS MIND, HE CREATED FOR THE CURRENT MANAVANTARA, KASHYAPA, GAUTAMA, BHARADWAJA, VISHWAMITRA, JAMADAGNI, VASISHTHA AND ATRI.
MANASAPUTRA*, YOUR DUTY IS TO MAKE SURE THERE IS LAW AND ORDER ON EARTH DURING THE VAIVASVATA MANAVANTARA.
ATRI, YOU WILL BE KNOWN FOR YOUR HONESTY AND PIETY.
LORD, I WILL DEVOTE MYSELF COMPLETELY TO THE WELFARE OF MANKIND.
ATRI MARRIED ANASUYA, THE DAUGHTER OF SAGE KARDAMA.
MAY YOU BOTH LIVE IN HARMONY.
ATRI AND ANASUYA BUILT AN ASHRAM AND GURUKUL^ IN THE TRANQUIL CHITRAKOOT** MOUNTAINS, ON THE BANKS OF THE RIVER PAYASWINI.
WE ARE SO LUCKY TO BE TAUGHT THE VEDAS BY ONE SO LEARNED AS ATRI.

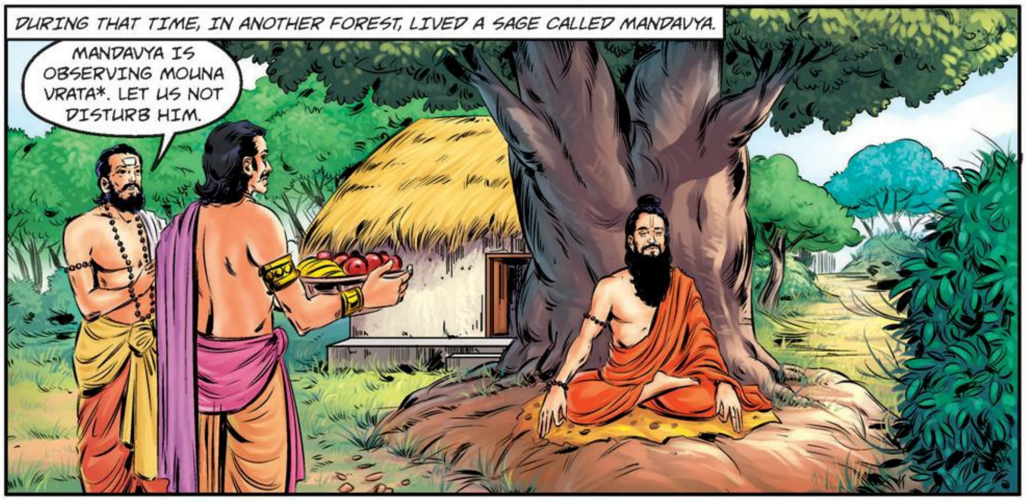
*MIND-BORN SONS

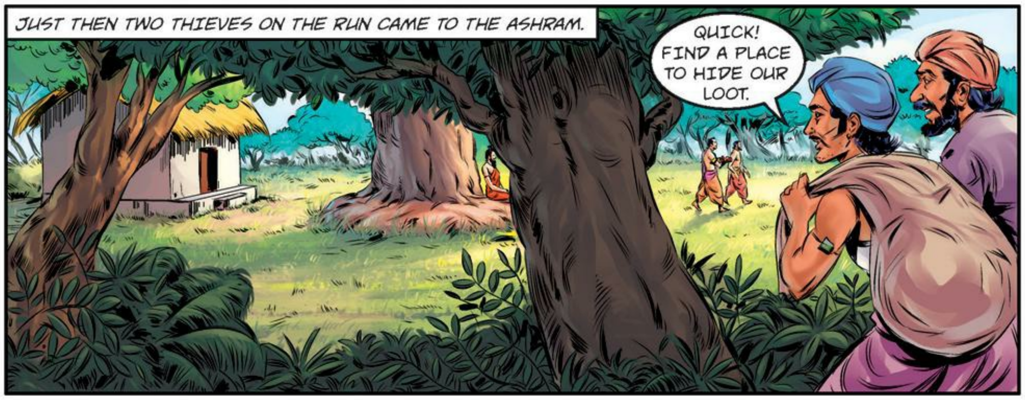
^PLACE OF LEARNING/SCHOOL

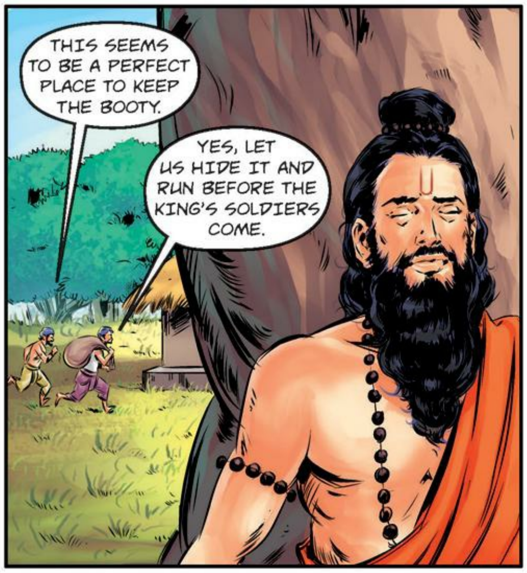
**CHITRAKOOT IS IN MODERN-DAY UTTAR PRADESH.

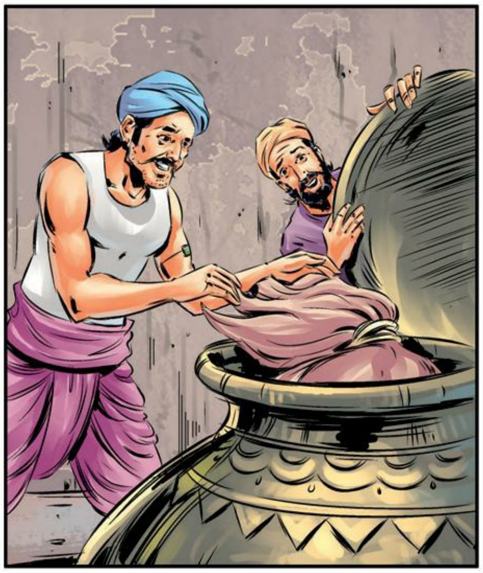

ANASUYA LOOKED AFTER THE STUDENTS LIKE A MOTHER.
TO LEARN WELL, YOU MUST EAT WELL.


SHE HELPED ATRI WITH HIS PRAYERS AND RITUALS.
I AM BLESSED TO HAVE A WIFE LIKE YOU.
IT IS AN HONOUR TO BE WITH A GREAT SAGE LIKE YOU.


DURING THAT TIME, IN ANOTHER FOREST, LIVED A SAGE CALLED MANDAVYA.
MANDAVYA IS OBSERVING MOUNA VRATA*. LET US NOT DISTURB HIM.


JUST THEN TWO THIEVES ON THE RUN CAME TO THE ASHRAM.
QUICK! FIND A PLACE TO HIDE OUR LOOT.


THIS SEEMS TO BE A PERFECT PLACE TO KEEP THE BOOTY.
YES, LET US HIDE IT AND RUN BEFORE THE KING'S SOLDIERS COME.



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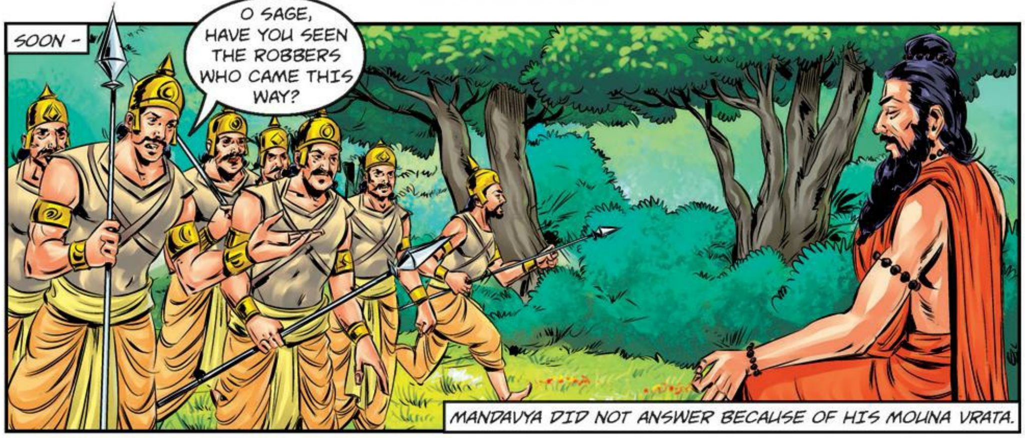
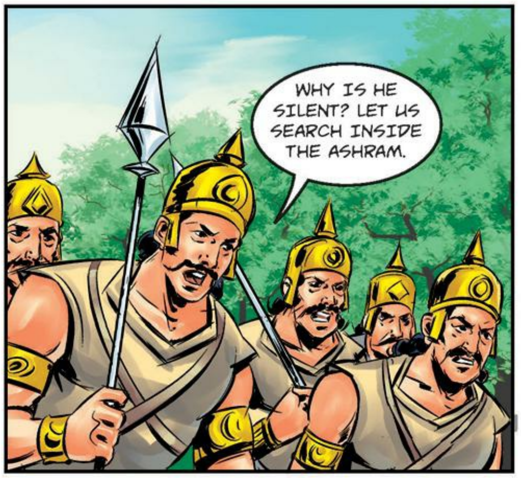
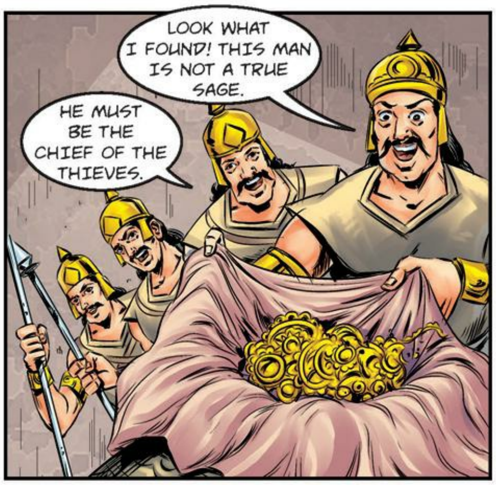
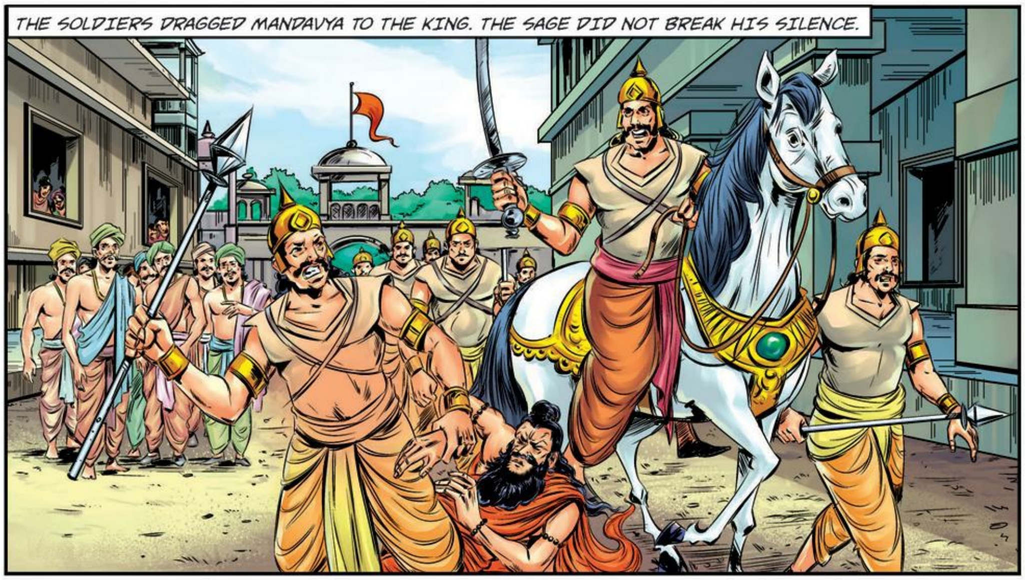
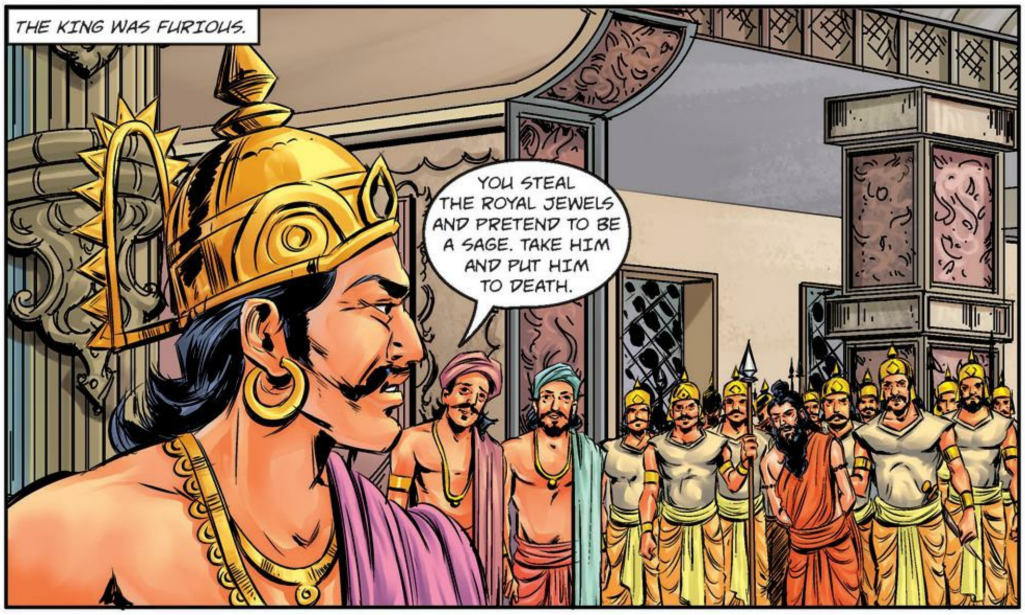
*A VOW OF SILENCE FOR A PARTICULAR PERIOD OF TIME


SOON –
O SAGE, HAVE YOU SEEN THE ROBBERS WHO CAME THIS WAY?
MANDAVYA DID NOT ANSWER BECAUSE OF HIS MOUNA VRATA.


WHY IS HE SILENT? LET US SEARCH INSIDE THE ASHRAM.

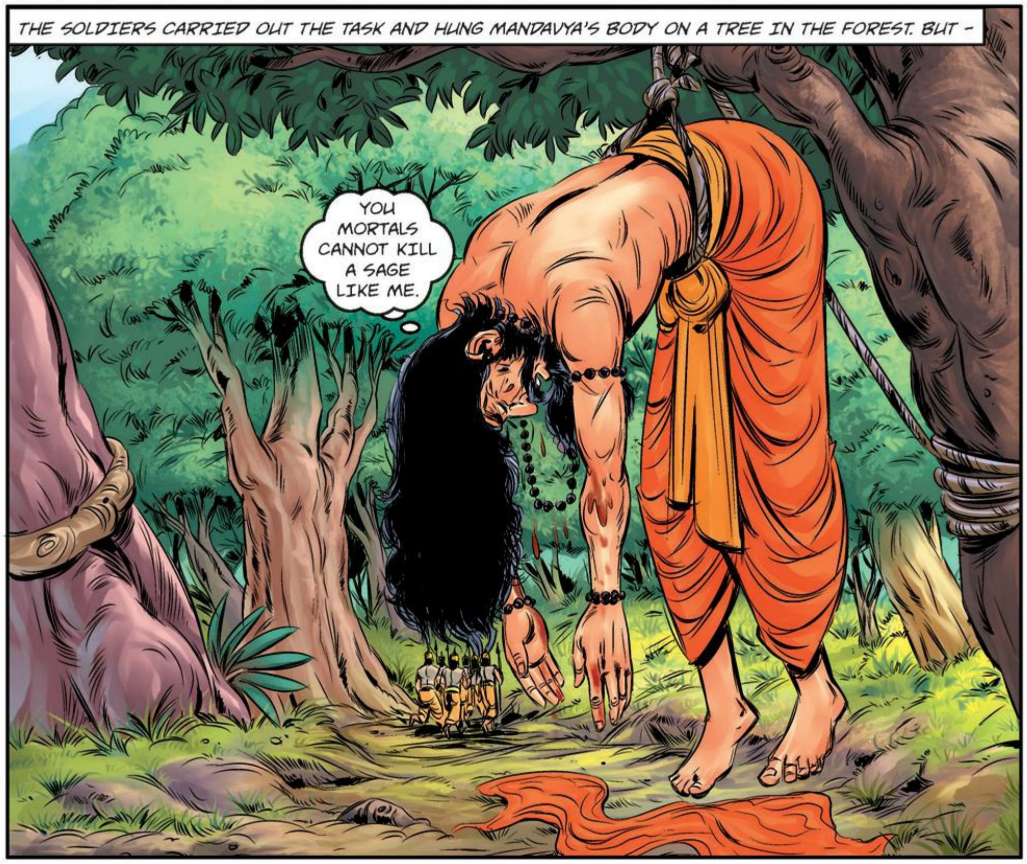

LOOK WHAT I FOUND! THIS MAN IS NOT A TRUE SAGE.
HE MUST BE THE CHIEF OF THE THIEVES.


THE SOLDIERS DRAGGED MANDAVYA TO THE KING. THE SAGE DID NOT BREAK HIS SILENCE.



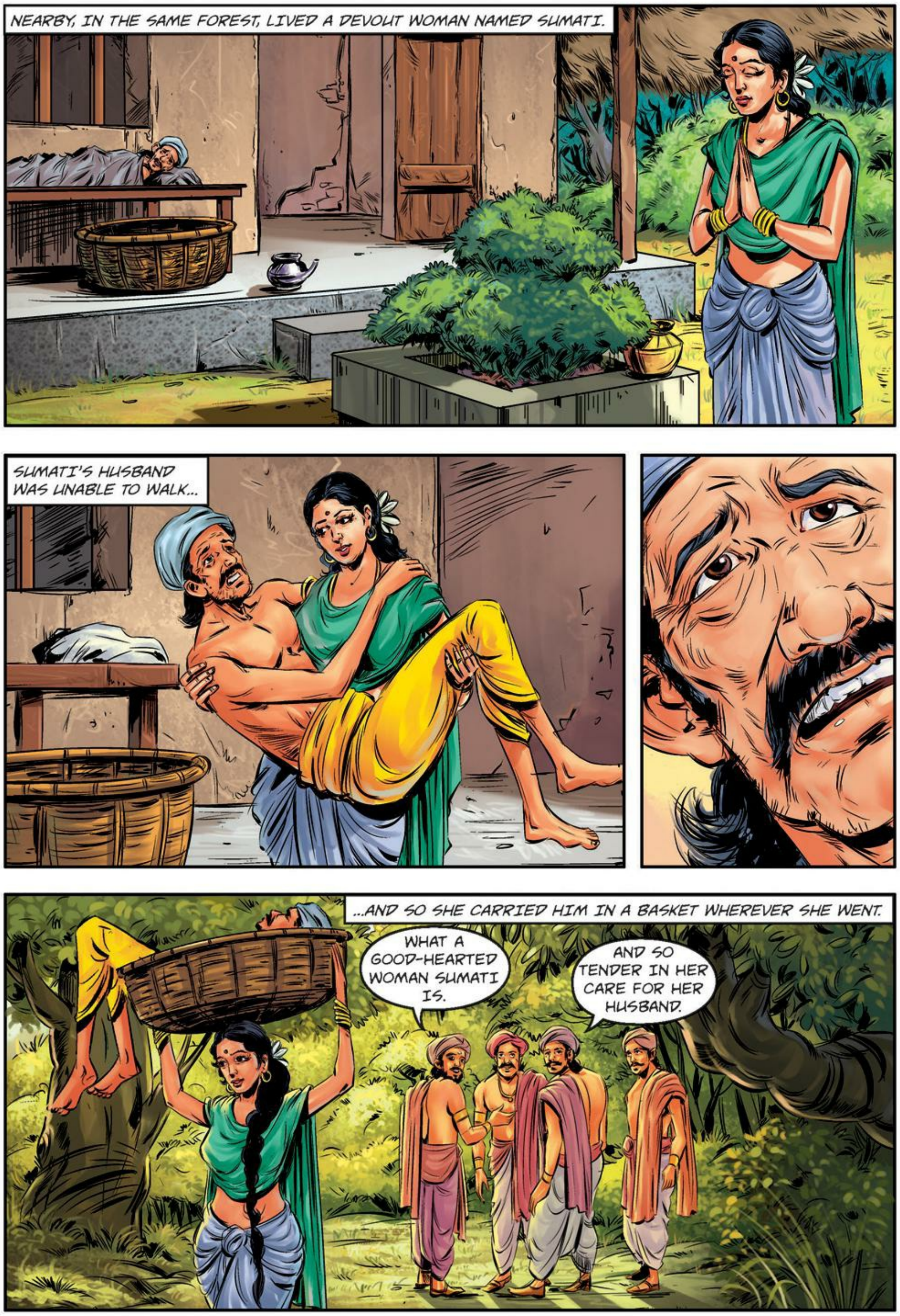
THE KING WAS FURIOUS.

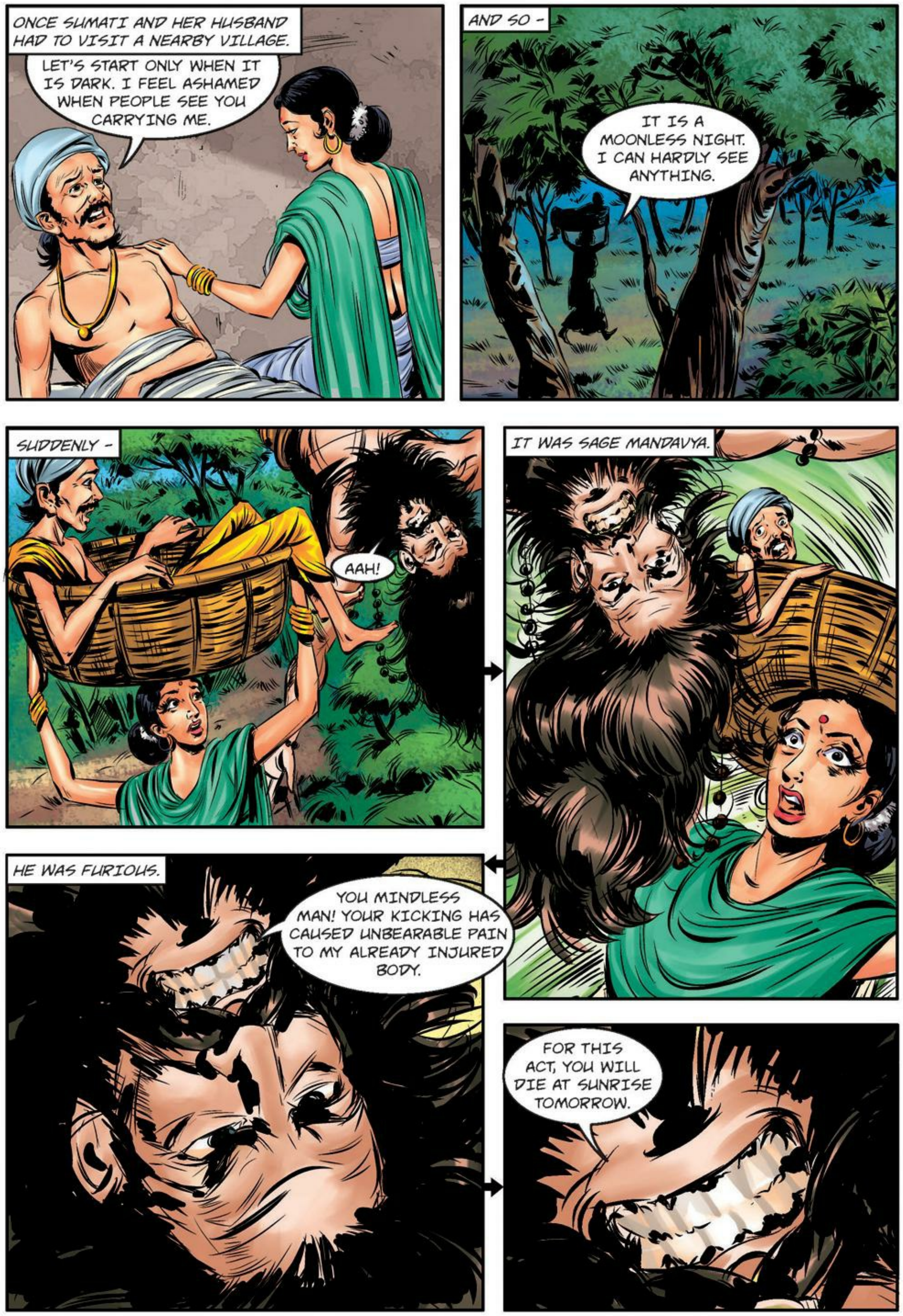
YOU STEAL THE ROYAL JEWELS AND PRETEND TO BE A SAGE. TAKE HIM AND PUT HIM TO DEATH.

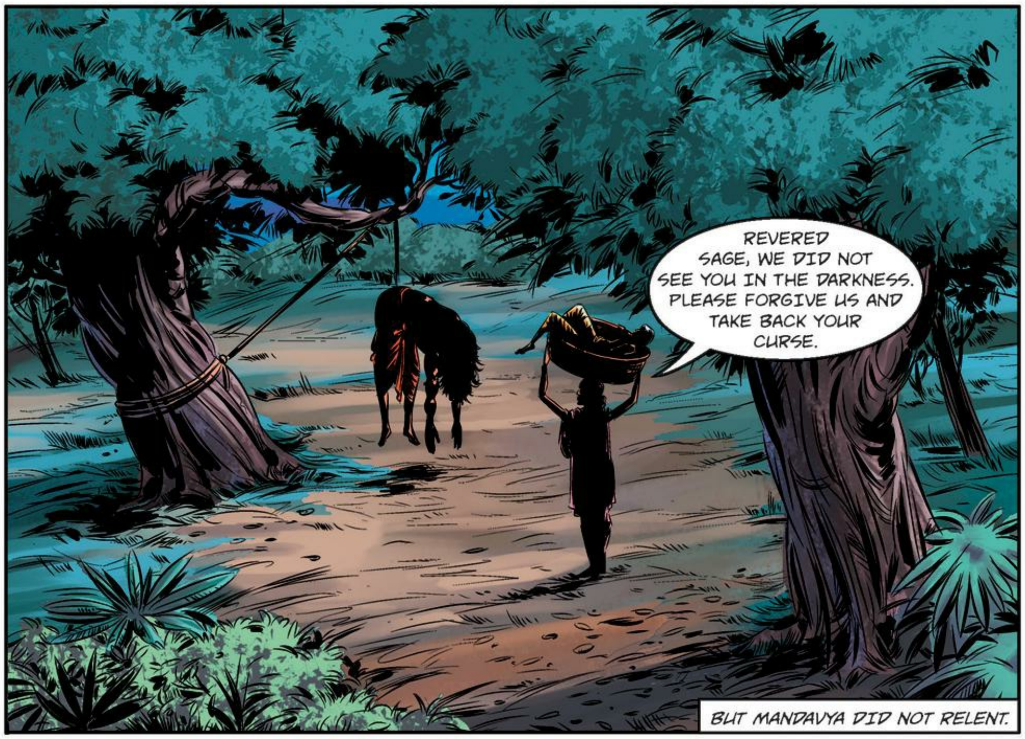


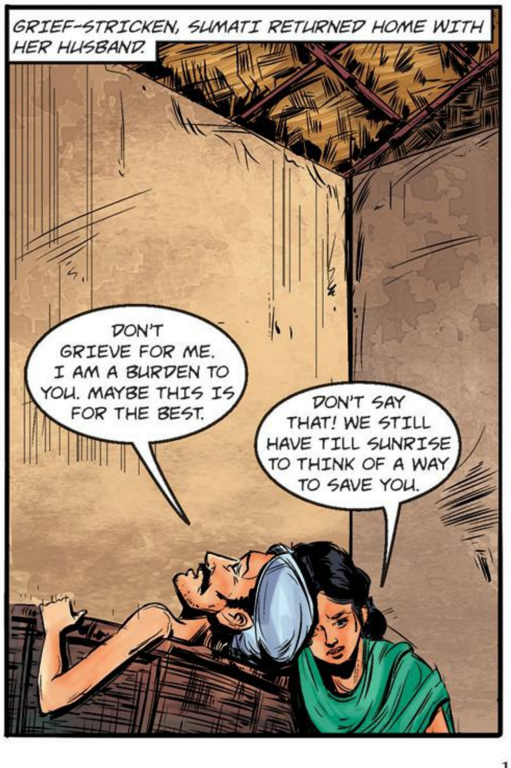
THE SOLDIERS CARRIED OUT THE TASK AND HUNG MANDAVYA'S BODY ON A TREE IN THE FOREST. BUT -

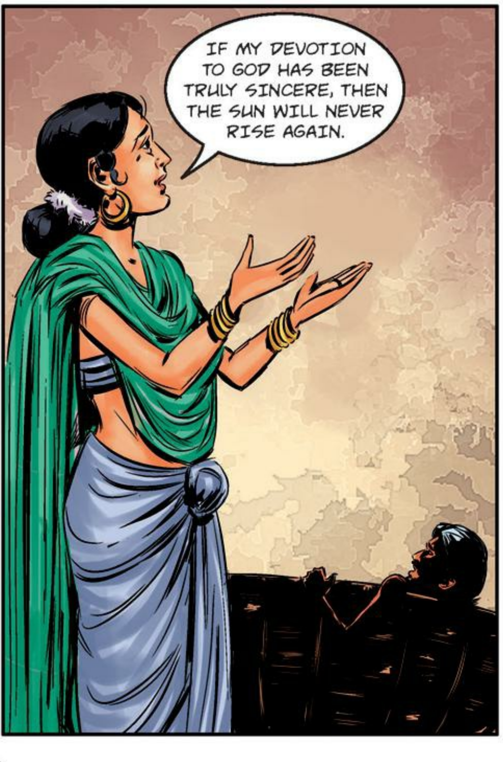
YOU MORTALS CANNOT KILL A SAGE LIKE ME.

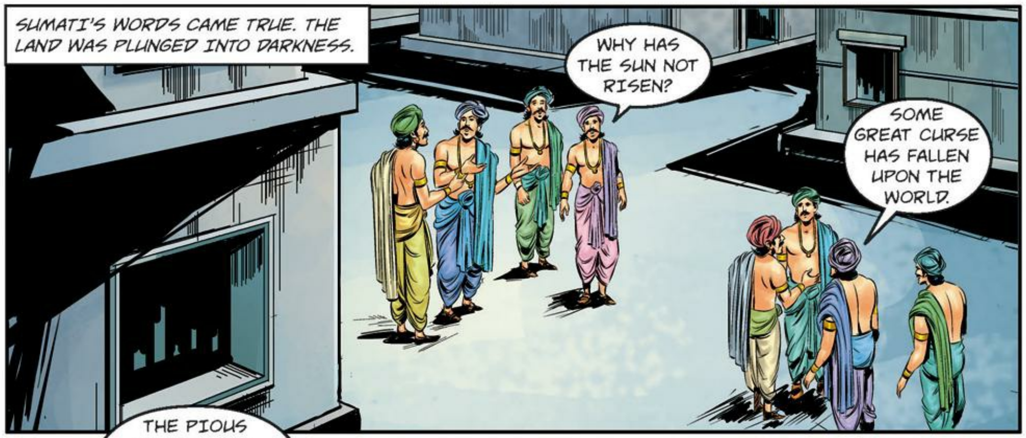

NEARBY, IN THE SAME FOREST, LIVED A DEVOUT WOMAN NAMED SUMATI.
SUMATI'S HUSBAND WAS UNABLE TO WALK...
...AND SO SHE CARRIED HIM IN A BASKET WHEREVER SHE WENT.
WHAT A GOOD-HEARTED WOMAN SUMATI IS.
AND SO TENDER IN HER CARE FOR HER HUSBAND.


ONCE SUMATI AND HER HUSBAND HAD TO VISIT A NEARBY VILLAGE.
LET'S START ONLY WHEN IT IS DARK. I FEEL ASHAMED WHEN PEOPLE SEE YOU CARRYING ME.
AND SO –
IT IS A MOONLESS NIGHT. I CAN HARDLY SEE ANYTHING.
SUDDENLY –
AAH!
IT WAS SAGE MANDAVYA.
HE WAS FURIOUS.
YOU MINDLESS MAN! YOUR KICKING HAS CAUSED UNBEARABLE PAIN TO MY ALREADY INJURED BODY.
FOR THIS ACT, YOU WILL DIE AT SUNRISE TOMORROW.


REVERED SAGE, WE DID NOT SEE YOU IN THE DARKNESS. PLEASE FORGIVE US AND TAKE BACK YOUR CURSE.
BUT MANDAVYA DID NOT RELENT.

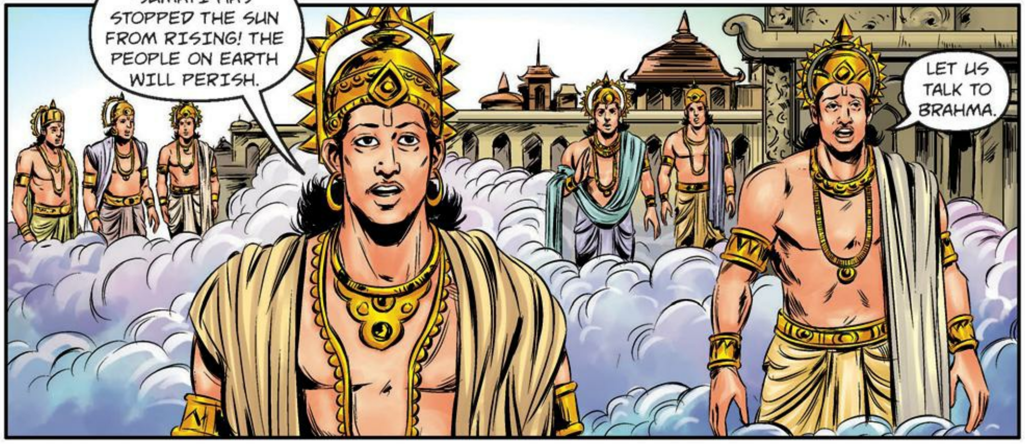

GRIEF-STRICKEN, SUMATI RETURNED HOME WITH HER HUSBAND.
DON'T GRIEVE FOR ME. I AM A BURDEN TO YOU. MAYBE THIS IS FOR THE BEST.
DON'T SAY THAT! WE STILL HAVE TILL SUNRISE TO THINK OF A WAY TO SAVE YOU.


IF MY DEVOTION TO GOD HAS BEEN TRULY SINCERE, THEN THE SUN WILL NEVER RISE AGAIN.

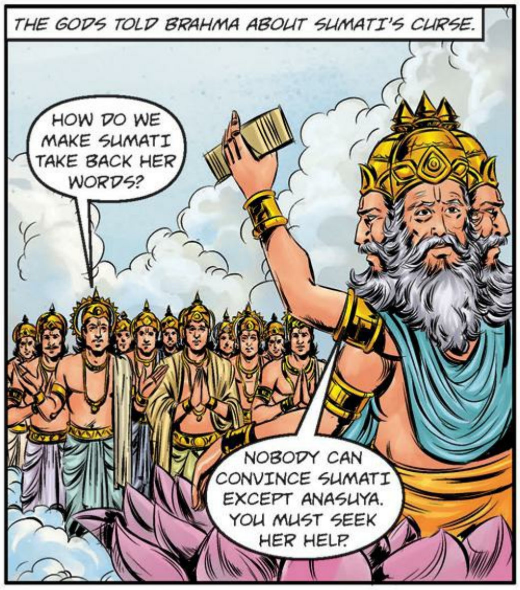


SUMATI'S WORDS CAME TRUE. THE LAND WAS PLUNGED INTO DARKNESS.

WHY HAS THE SUN NOT RISEN?
SOME GREAT CURSE HAS FALLEN UPON THE WORLD.

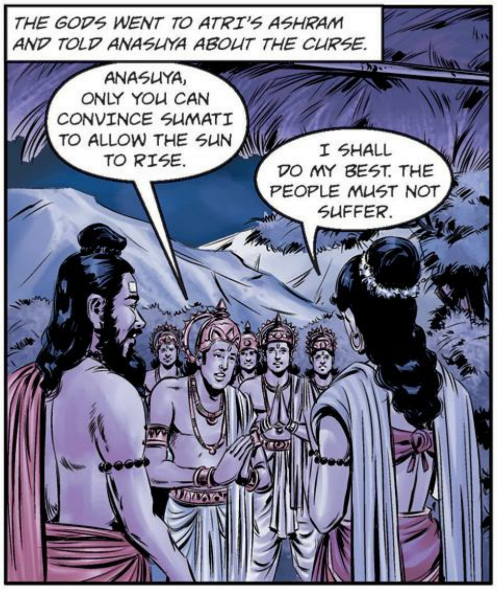


THE PIOUS SUMATI HAS STOPPED THE SUN FROM RISING! THE PEOPLE ON EARTH WILL PERISH.
LET US TALK TO BRAHMA.



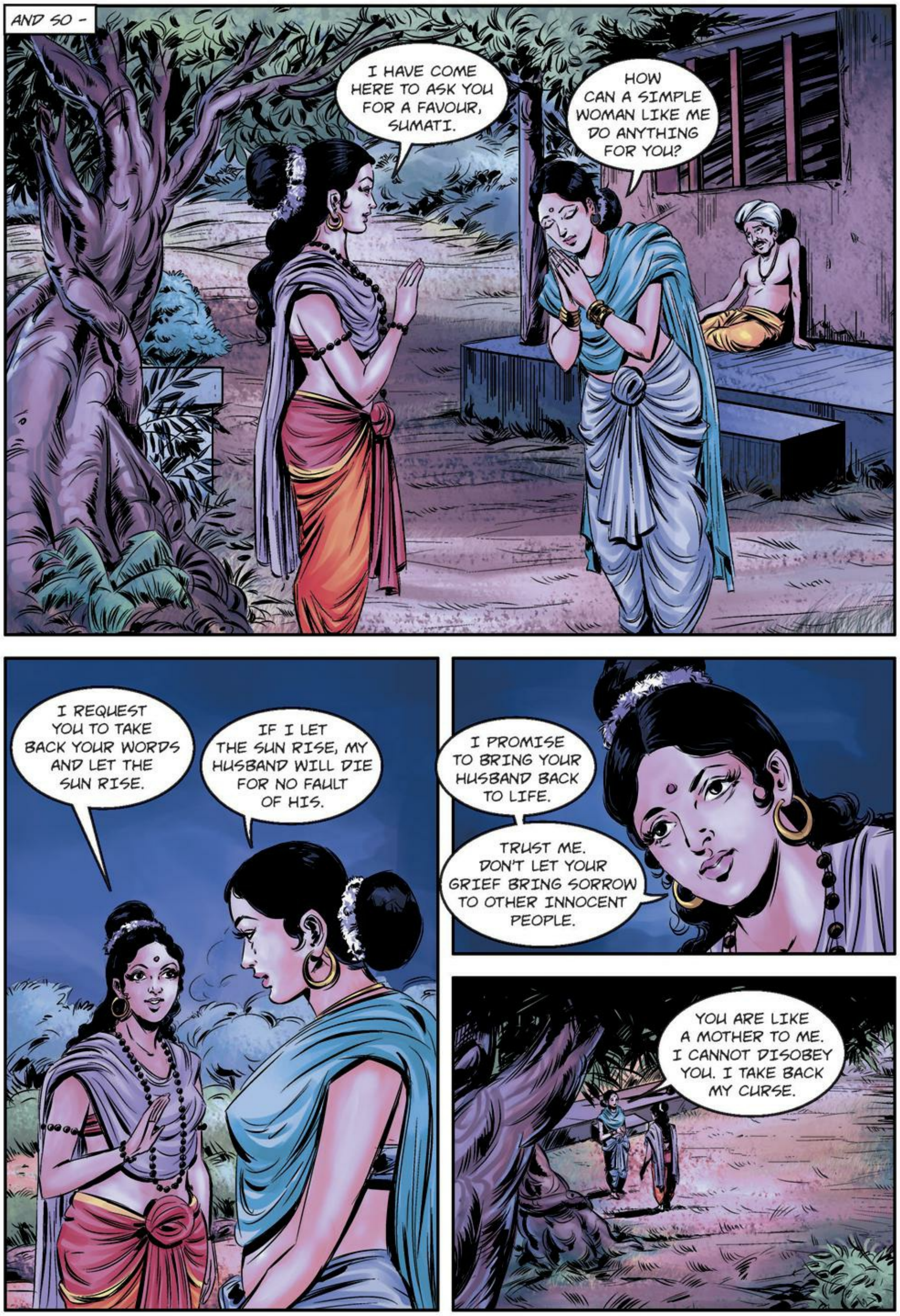
THE GODS TOLD BRAHMA ABOUT SUMATI'S CURSE.

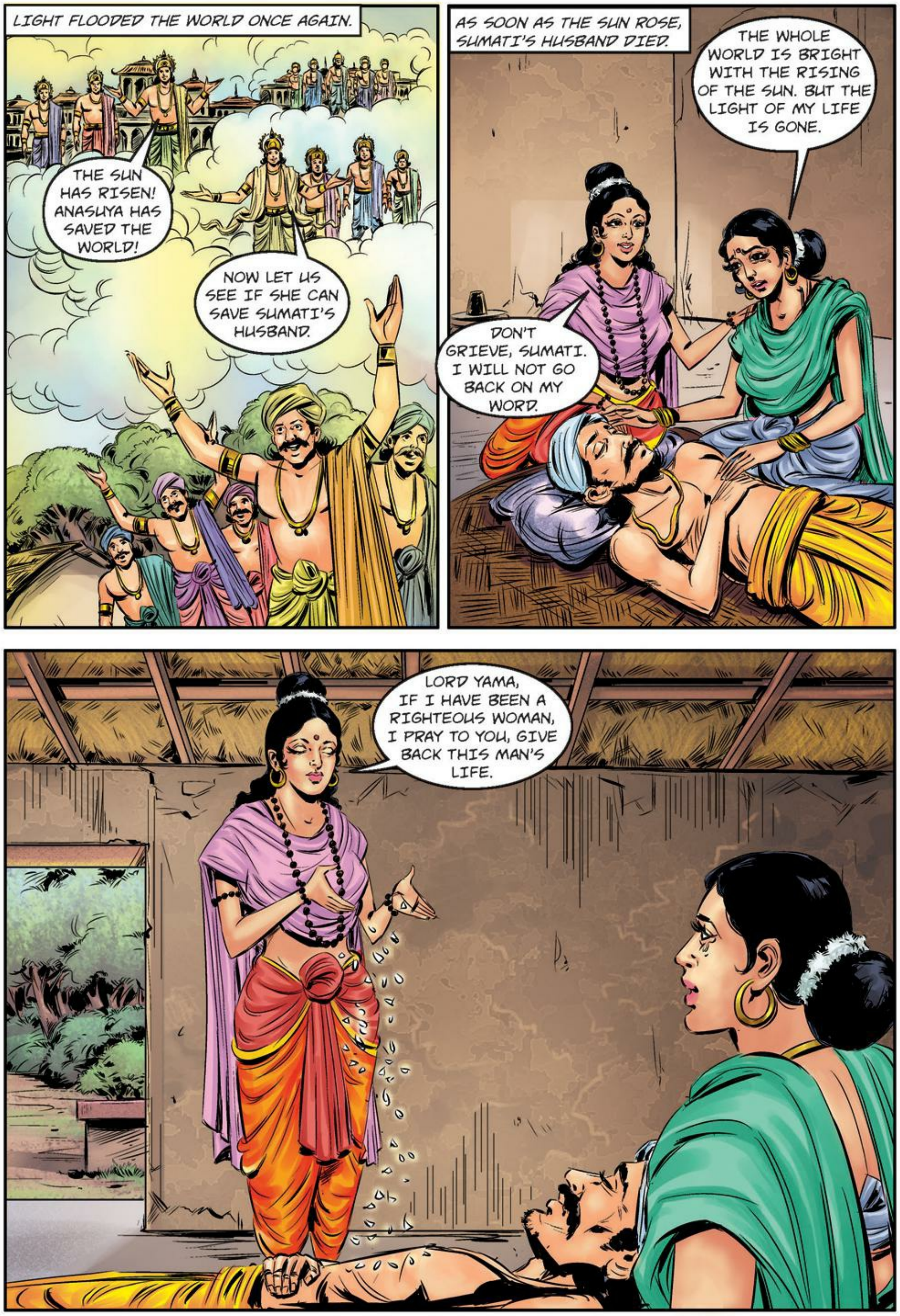
HOW DO WE MAKE SUMATI TAKE BACK HER WORDS?
NOBODY CAN CONVINCE SUMATI EXCEPT ANASUYA. YOU MUST SEEK HER HELP.

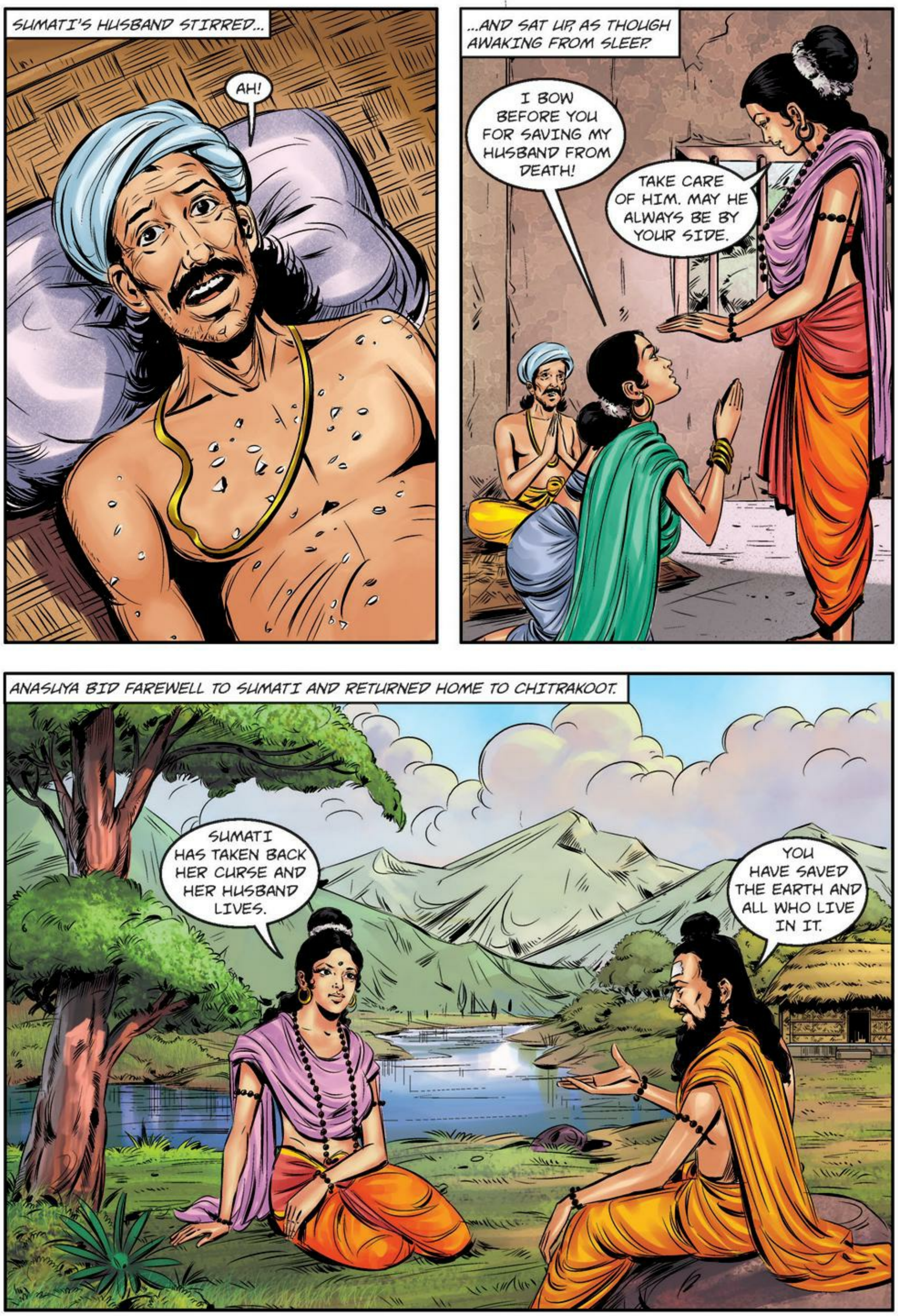


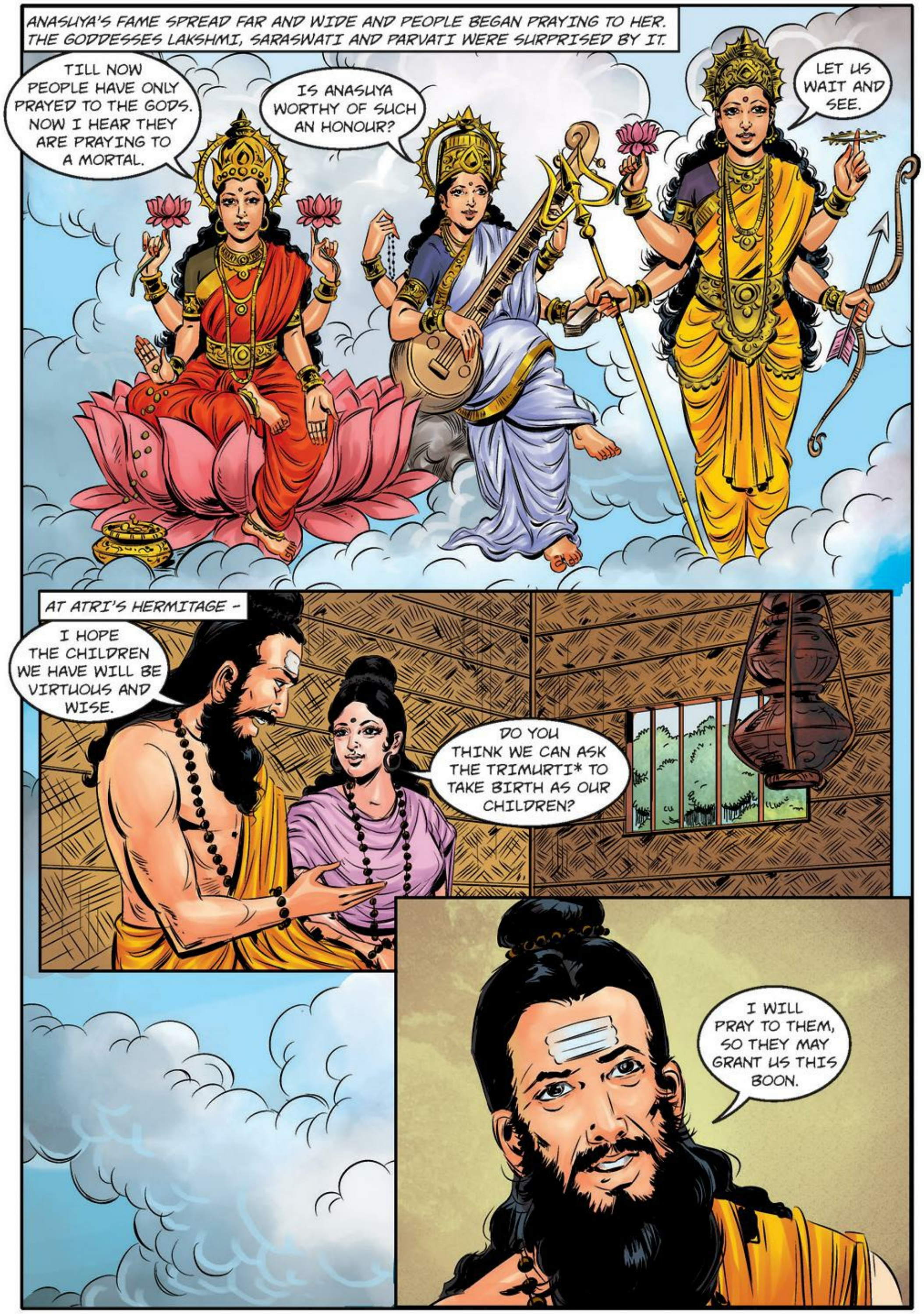
THE GODS WENT TO ATRI'S ASHRAM AND TOLD ANASUYA ABOUT THE CURSE.

ANASUYA, ONLY YOU CAN CONVINCE SUMATI TO ALLOW THE SUN TO RISE.
I SHALL DO MY BEST. THE PEOPLE MUST NOT SUFFER.

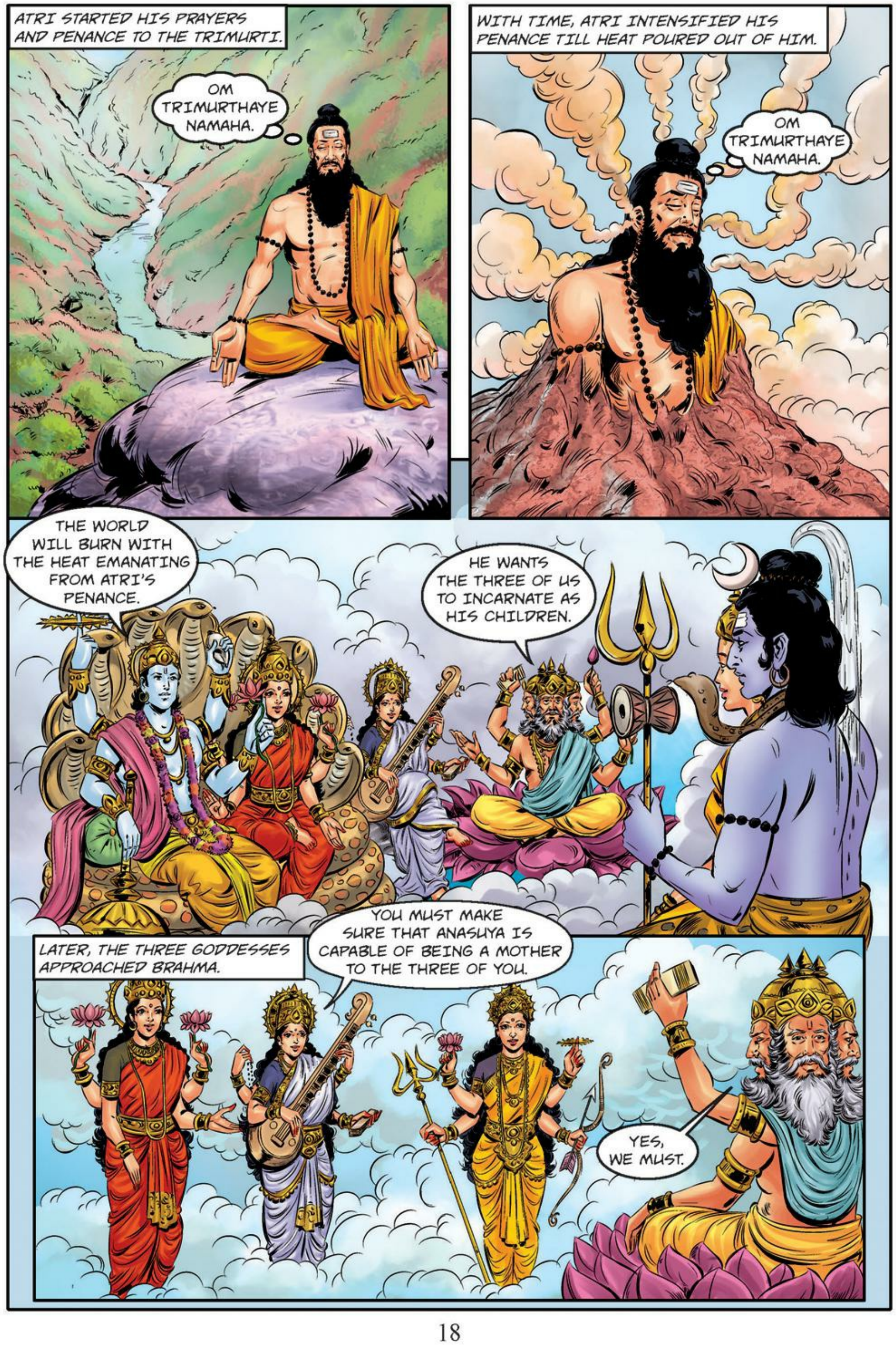

AND SO -
I HAVE COME HERE TO ASK YOU FOR A FAVOUR, SUMATI.
HOW CAN A SIMPLE WOMAN LIKE ME DO ANYTHING FOR YOU?
I REQUEST YOU TO TAKE BACK YOUR WORDS AND LET THE SUN RISE.
IF I LET THE SUN RISE, MY HUSBAND WILL DIE FOR NO FAULT OF HIS.
I PROMISE TO BRING YOUR HUSBAND BACK TO LIFE.
TRUST ME. DON'T LET YOUR GRIEF BRING SORROW TO OTHER INNOCENT PEOPLE.
YOU ARE LIKE A MOTHER TO ME. I CANNOT DISOBEY YOU. I TAKE BACK MY CURSE.

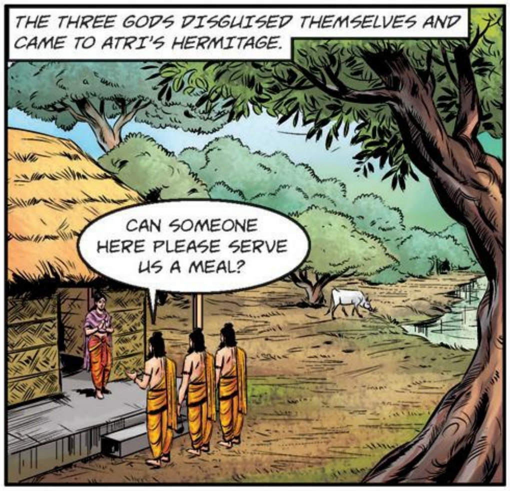

LIGHT FLOODED THE WORLD ONCE AGAIN.
THE SUN HAS RISEN! ANASUYA HAS SAVED THE WORLD!
NOW LET US SEE IF SHE CAN SAVE SUMATI'S HUSBAND.
AS SOON AS THE SUN ROSE, SUMATI'S HUSBAND DIED.
THE WHOLE WORLD IS BRIGHT WITH THE RISING OF THE SUN. BUT THE LIGHT OF MY LIFE IS GONE.
DON'T GRIEVE, SUMATI. I WILL NOT GO BACK ON MY WORD.
LORD YAMA, IF I HAVE BEEN A RIGHTEOUS WOMAN, I PRAY TO YOU, GIVE BACK THIS MAN'S LIFE.

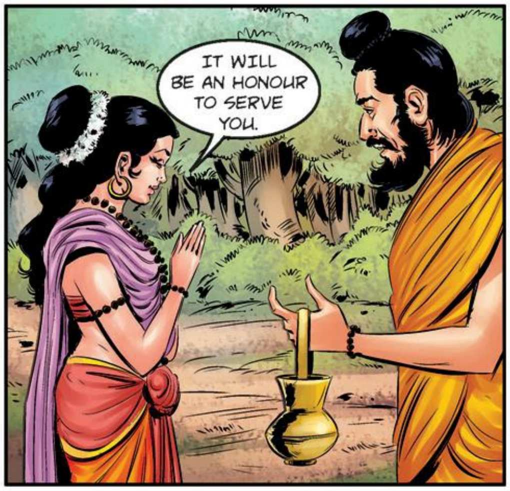

SUMATI'S HUSBAND STIRRED...
AH!
...AND SAT UP, AS THOUGH AWAKING FROM SLEEP.
I BOW BEFORE YOU FOR SAVING MY HUSBAND FROM DEATH!
TAKE CARE OF HIM. MAY HE ALWAYS BE BY YOUR SIDE.
ANASUYA BID FAREWELL TO SUMATI AND RETURNED HOME TO CHITRAKOOT.
SUMATI HAS TAKEN BACK HER CURSE AND HER HUSBAND LIVES.
YOU HAVE SAVED THE EARTH AND ALL WHO LIVE IN IT.

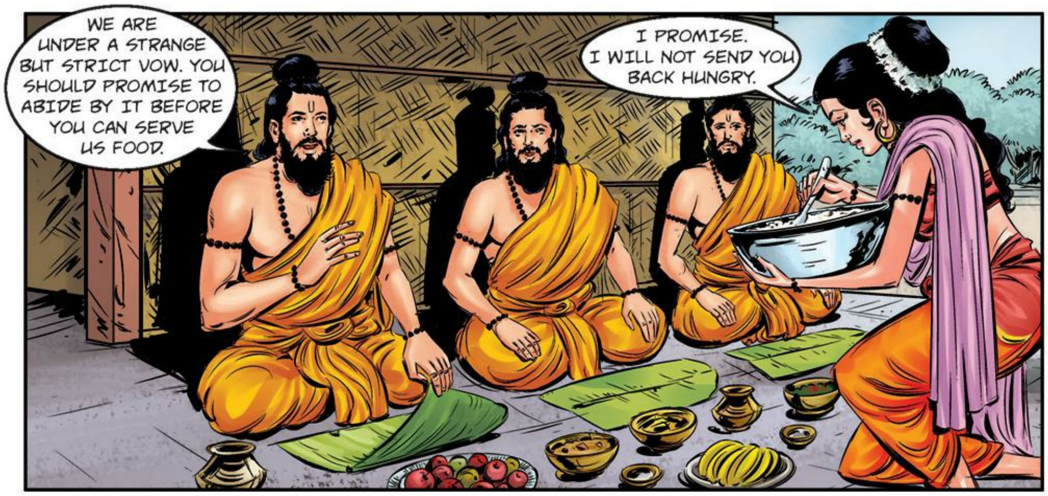

ANASUYA'S FAME SPREAD FAR AND WIDE AND PEOPLE BEGAN PRAYING TO HER. THE GODDESSES LAKSHMI, SARASWATI AND PARVATI WERE SURPRISED BY IT.
TILL NOW PEOPLE HAVE ONLY PRAYED TO THE GODS. NOW I HEAR THEY ARE PRAYING TO A MORTAL.
IS ANASUYA WORTHY OF SUCH AN HONOUR?
LET US WAIT AND SEE.
AT ATRI'S HERMITAGE -
I HOPE THE CHILDREN WE HAVE WILL BE VIRTUOUS AND WISE.
DO YOU THINK WE CAN ASK THE TRIMURTI* TO TAKE BIRTH AS OUR CHILDREN?
I WILL PRAY TO THEM, SO THEY MAY GRANT US THIS BOON.

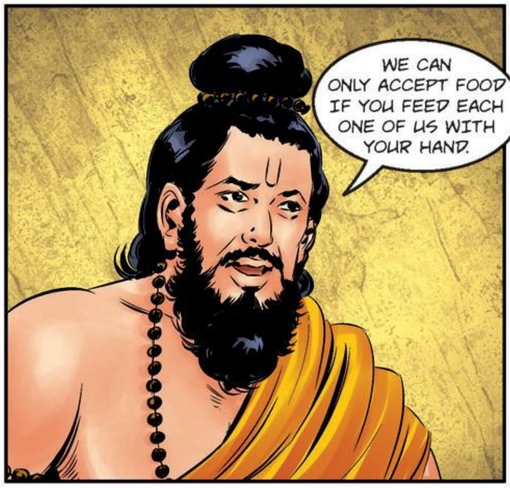
*BRAHMA, VISHNU AND SHIVA TOGETHER ARE KNOWN AS TRIMURTI.

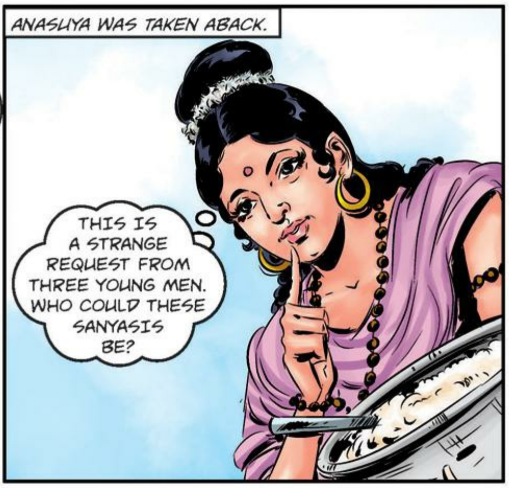

ATRI STARTED HIS PRAYERS AND PENANCE TO THE TRIMURTI.
OM TRIMURTHAYE NAMAHA.
WITH TIME, ATRI INTENSIFIED HIS PENANCE TILL HEAT POURED OUT OF HIM.
OM TRIMURTHAYE NAMAHA.
THE WORLD WILL BURN WITH THE HEAT EMANATING FROM ATRI'S PENANCE.
HE WANTS THE THREE OF US TO INCARNATE AS HIS CHILDREN.
LATER, THE THREE GODDESSES APPROACHED BRAHMA.
YOU MUST MAKE SURE THAT ANASUYA IS CAPABLE OF BEING A MOTHER TO THE THREE OF YOU.
YES, WE MUST.

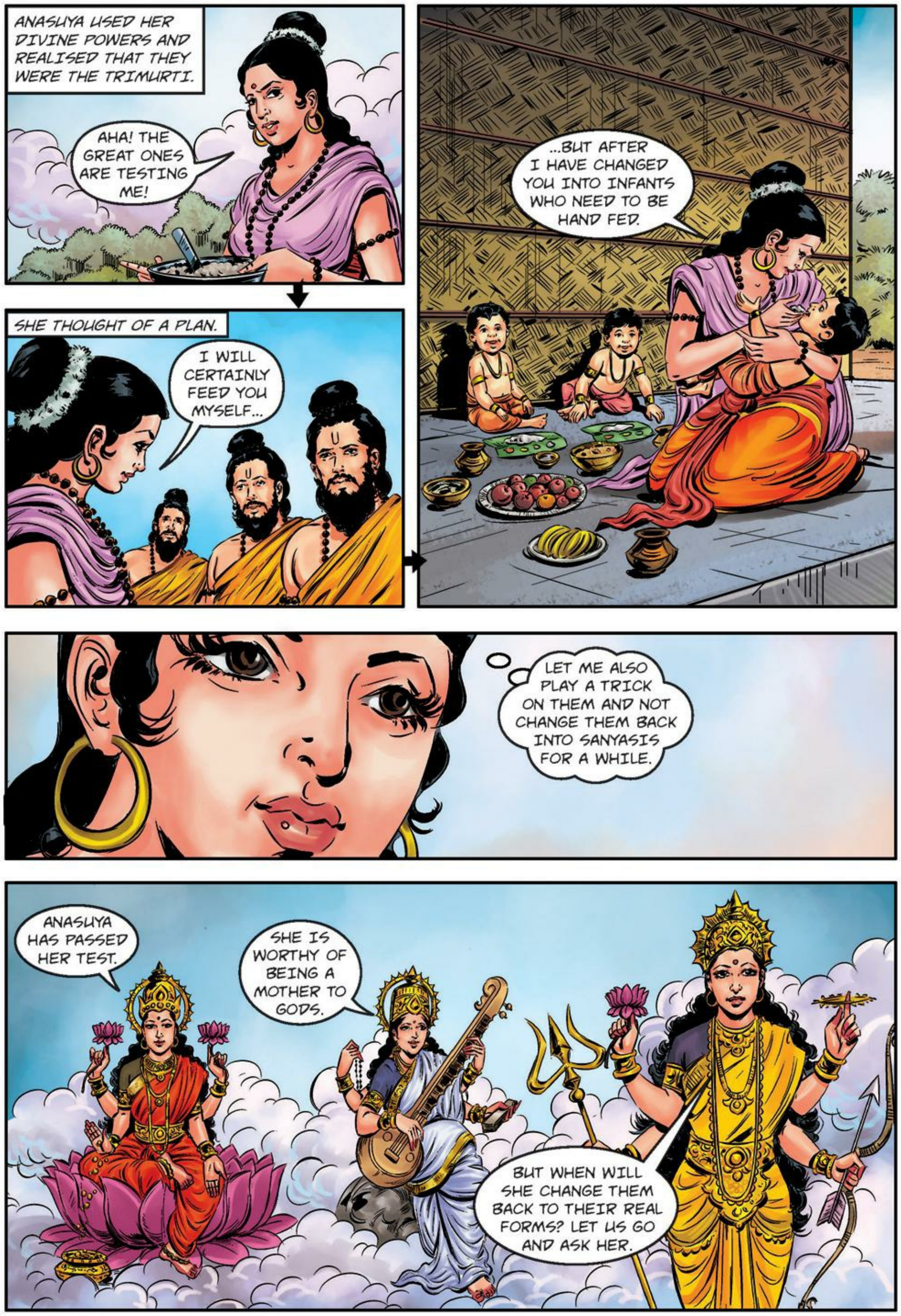

THE THREE GODS DISGUISED THEMSELVES AND CAME TO ATRI'S HERMITAGE.
CAN SOMEONE HERE PLEASE SERVE US A MEAL?

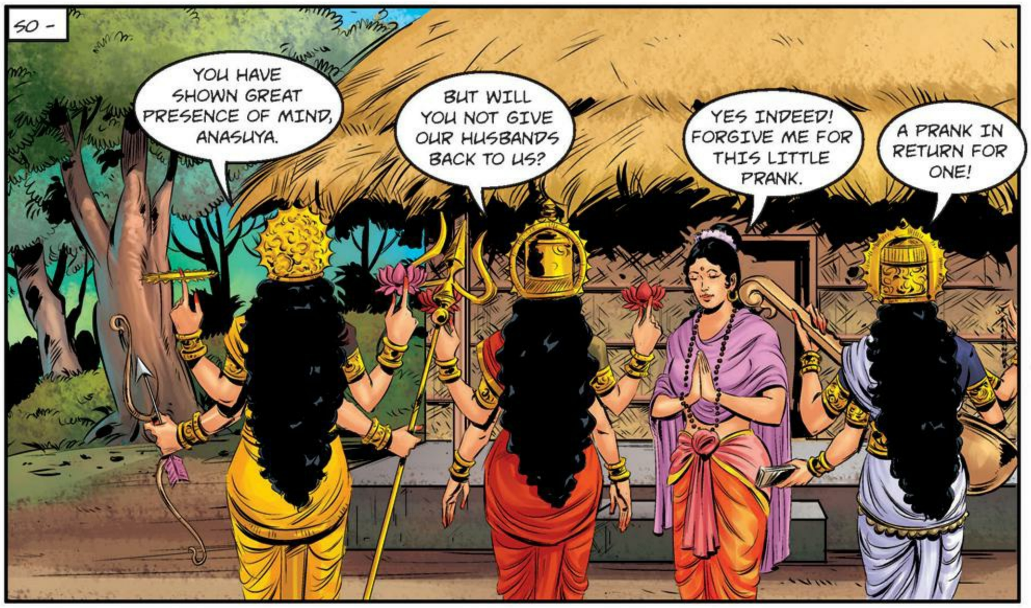

IT WILL BE AN HONOUR TO SERVE YOU.

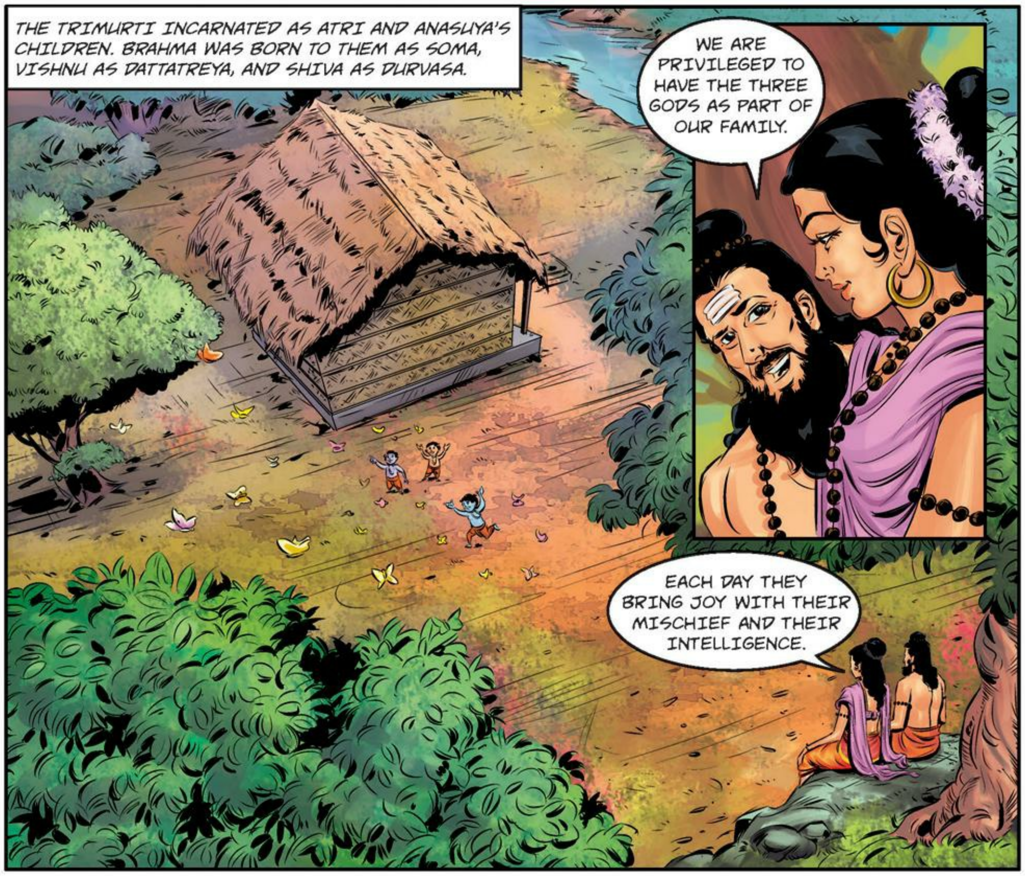

WE ARE UNDER A STRANGE BUT STRICT VOW. YOU SHOULD PROMISE TO ABIDE BY IT BEFORE YOU CAN SERVE US FOOD.
I PROMISE. I WILL NOT SEND YOU BACK HUNGRY.

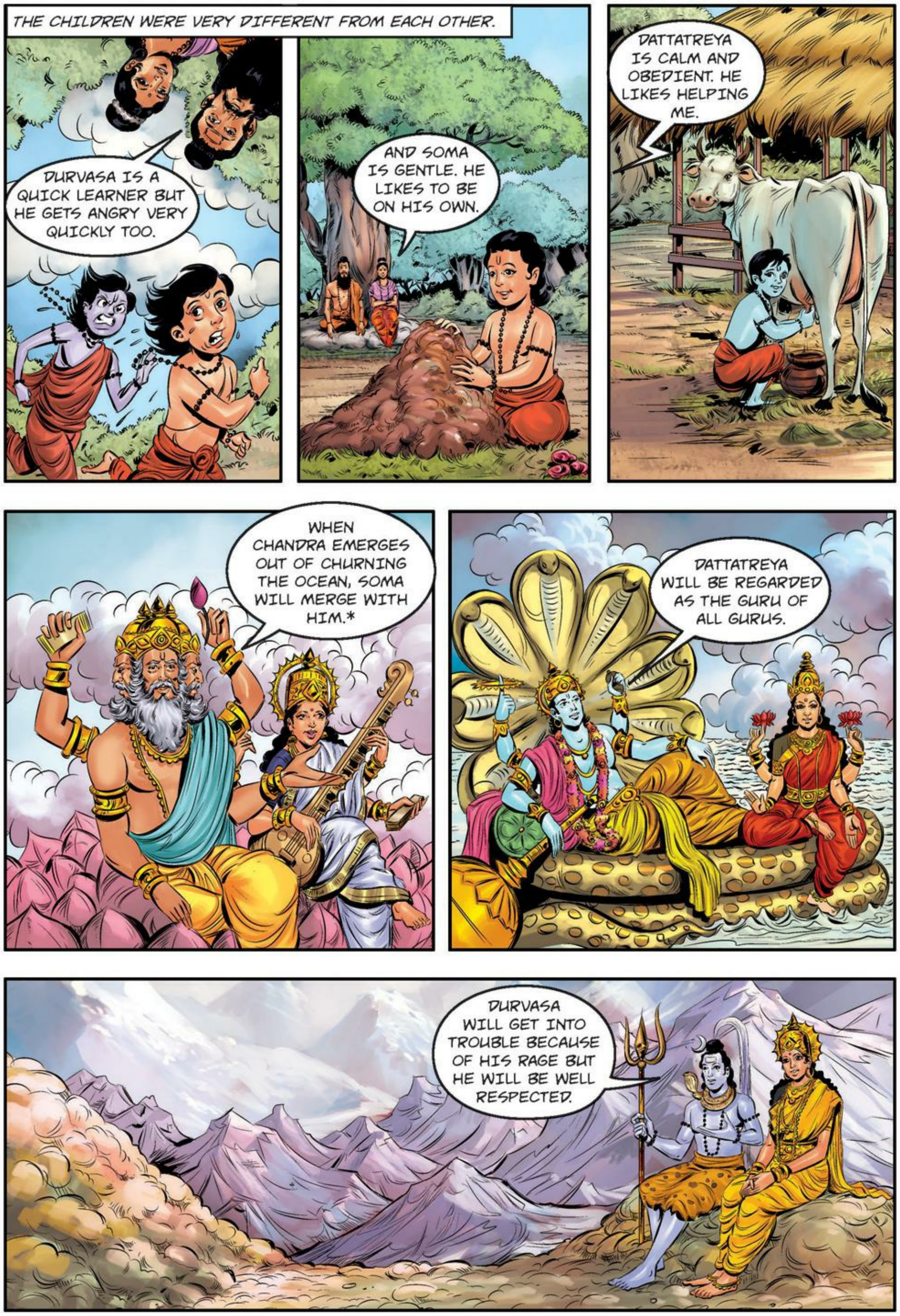

WE CAN ONLY ACCEPT FOOD IF YOU FEED EACH ONE OF US WITH YOUR HAND.


ANASUYA WAS TAKEN ABACK.
THIS IS A STRANGE REQUEST FROM THREE YOUNG MEN. WHO COULD THESE SANYASIS BE?

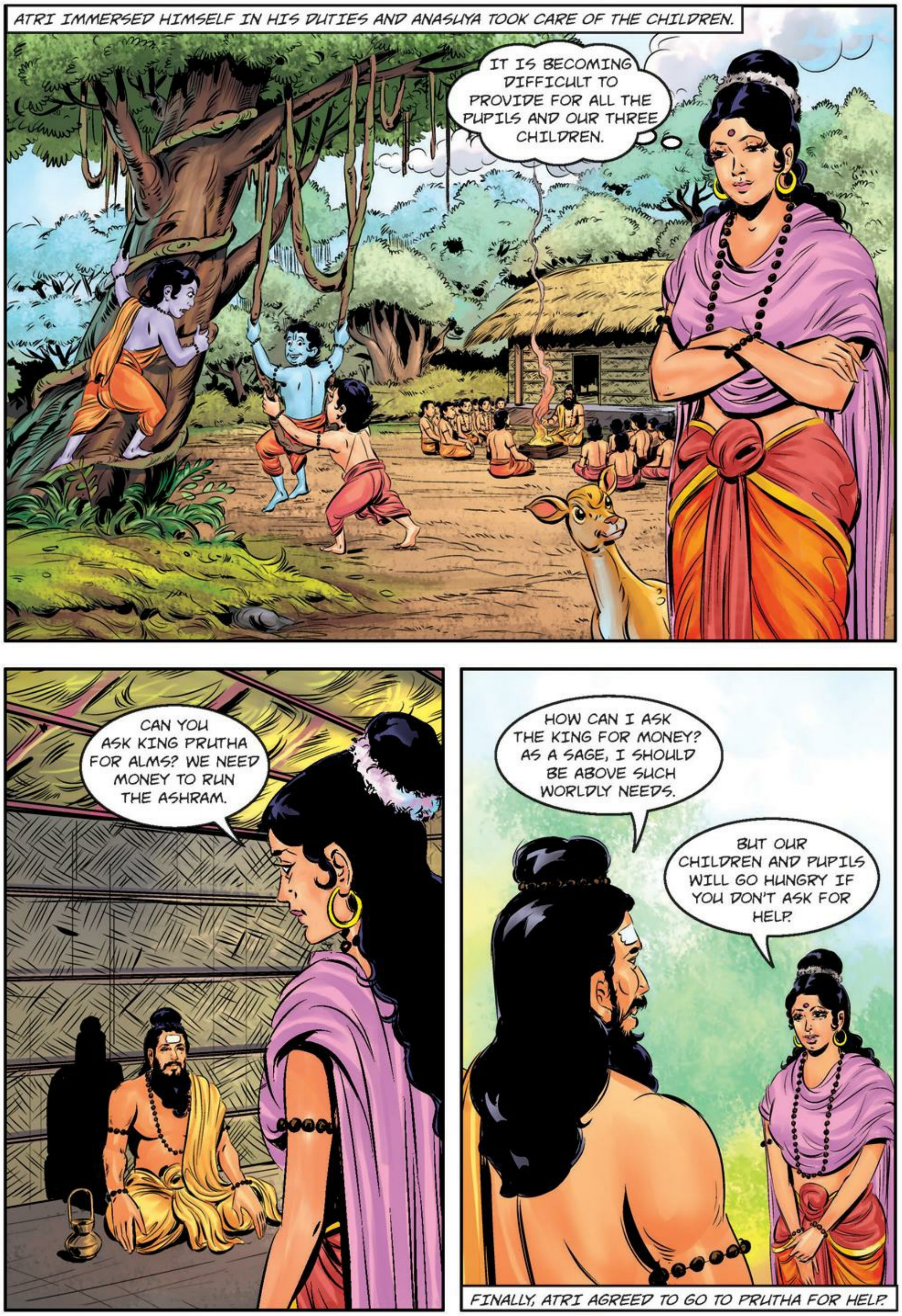

ANASUYA USED HER DIVINE POWERS AND REALISED THAT THEY WERE THE TRIMURTI.
AHA! THE GREAT ONES ARE TESTING ME!
SHE THOUGHT OF A PLAN.
I WILL CERTAINLY FEED YOU MYSELF...
...BUT AFTER I HAVE CHANGED YOU INTO INFANTS WHO NEED TO BE HAND FED.
LET ME ALSO PLAY A TRICK ON THEM AND NOT CHANGE THEM BACK INTO SANYASIS FOR A WHILE.
ANASUYA HAS PASSED HER TEST.
SHE IS WORTHY OF BEING A MOTHER TO GODS.
BUT WHEN WILL SHE CHANGE THEM BACK TO THEIR REAL FORMS? LET US GO AND ASK HER.

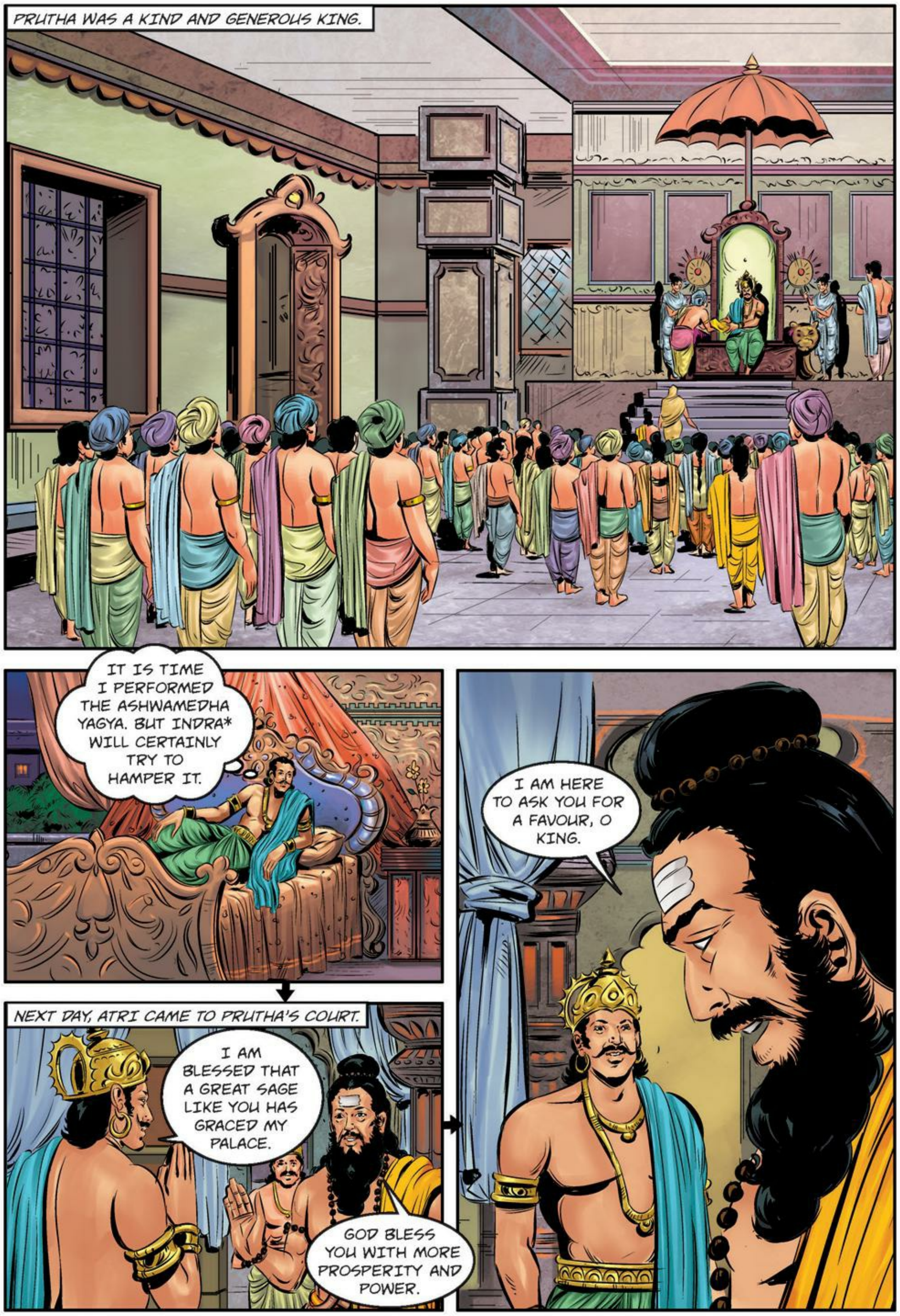

SO -
YOU HAVE SHOWN GREAT PRESENCE OF MIND, ANASUYA.
BUT WILL YOU NOT GIVE OUR HUSBANDS BACK TO US?
YES INDEED! FORGIVE ME FOR THIS LITTLE PRANK.
A PRANK IN RETURN FOR ONE!


THE TRIMURTI INCARNATED AS ATRI AND ANASUYA'S CHILDREN. BRAHMA WAS BORN TO THEM AS SOMA, VISHNU AS DATTATREYA, AND SHIVA AS DURVASA.
WE ARE PRIVILEGED TO HAVE THE THREE GODS AS PART OF OUR FAMILY.
EACH DAY THEY BRING JOY WITH THEIR MISCHIEF AND THEIR INTELLIGENCE.

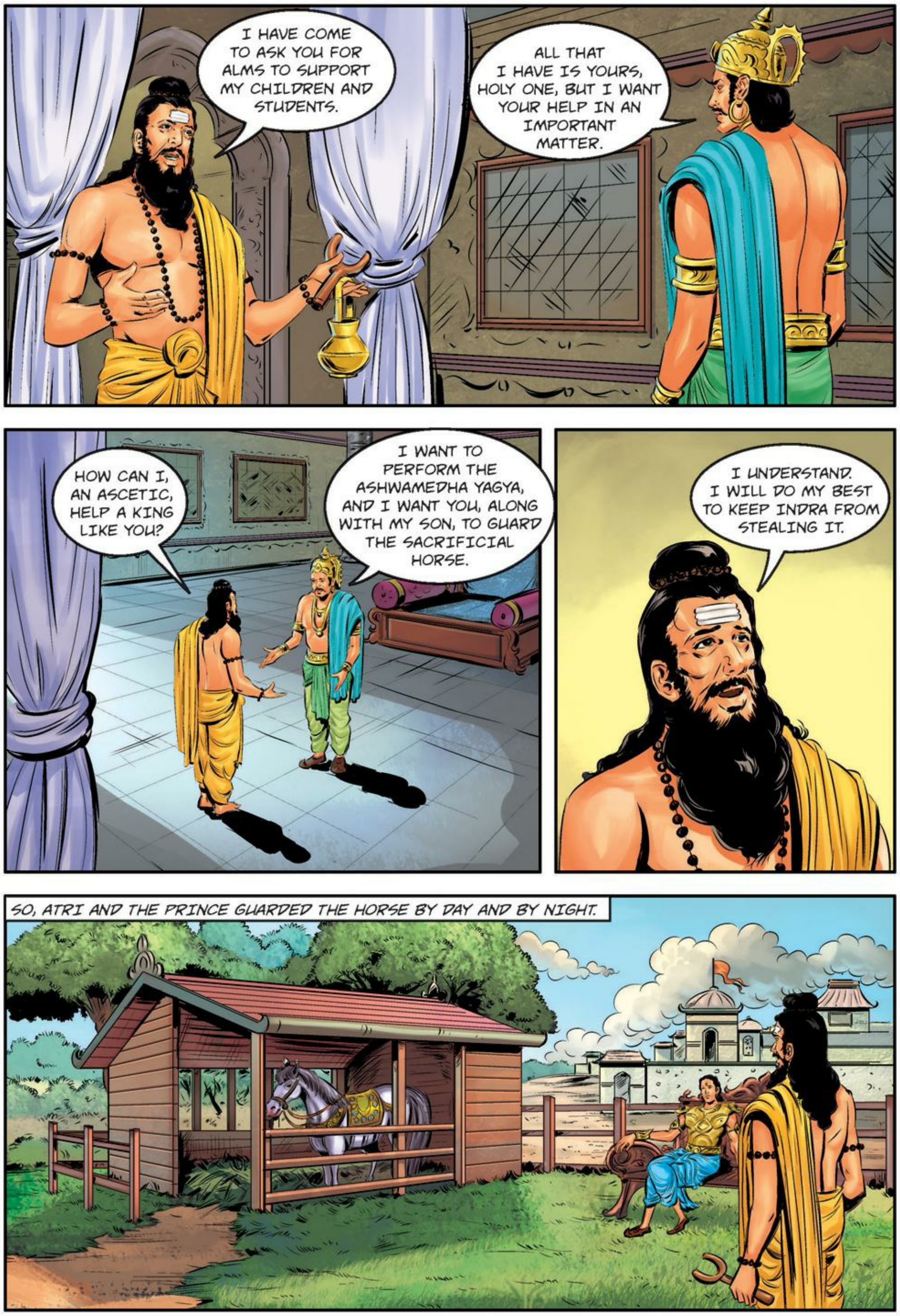

THE CHILDREN WERE VERY DIFFERENT FROM EACH OTHER.
DURVASA IS A QUICK LEARNER BUT HE GETS ANGRY VERY QUICKLY TOO.
AND SOMA IS GENTLE. HE LIKES TO BE ON HIS OWN.
DATTATREYA IS CALM AND OBEDIENT. HE LIKES HELPING ME.
WHEN CHANDRA EMERGES OUT OF CHURNING THE OCEAN, SOMA WILL MERGE WITH HIM.*
DATTATREYA WILL BE REGARDED AS THE GURU OF ALL GURUS.
DURVASA WILL GET INTO TROUBLE BECAUSE OF HIS RAGE BUT HE WILL BE WELL RESPECTED.

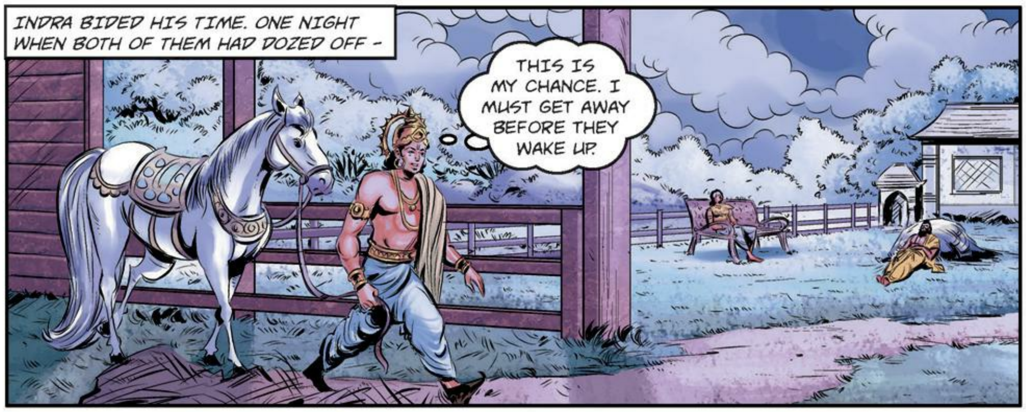
*CHANDRA WAS BORN FROM THE CHURNING OF THE OCEAN, WHILE SOMA ALSO CALLED CHANDRA IS THE SON OF ATRI. SOMA MERGES WITH CHANDRA TO BECOME ONE.

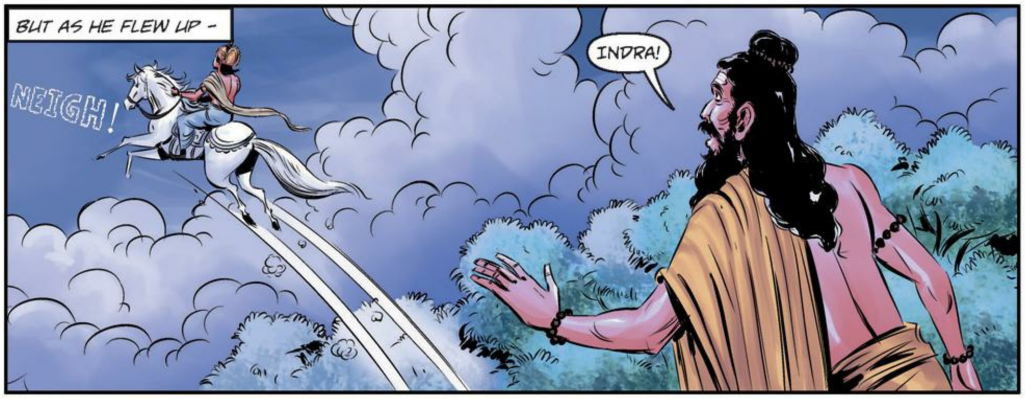

ATRI IMMERSED HIMSELF IN HIS DUTIES AND ANASUYA TOOK CARE OF THE CHILDREN.
IT IS BECOMING DIFFICULT TO PROVIDE FOR ALL THE PUPILS AND OUR THREE CHILDREN.
CAN YOU ASK KING PRUTHA FOR ALMS? WE NEED MONEY TO RUN THE ASHRAM.
HOW CAN I ASK THE KING FOR MONEY? AS A SAGE, I SHOULD BE ABOVE SUCH WORLDLY NEEDS.
BUT OUR CHILDREN AND PUPILS WILL GO HUNGRY IF YOU DON'T ASK FOR HELP.
FINALLY, ATRI AGREED TO GO TO PRUTHA FOR HELP.

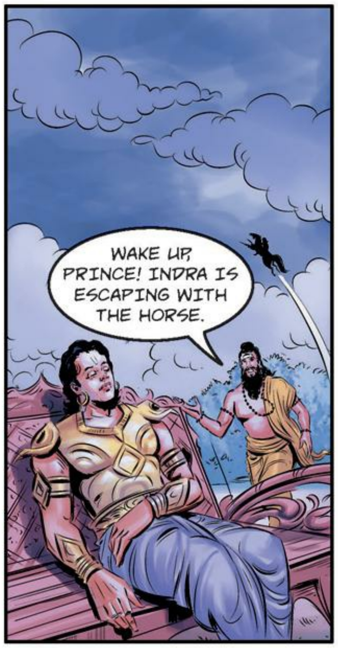

PRUTHA WAS A KIND AND GENEROUS KING.
IT IS TIME I PERFORMED THE ASHWAMEDHA YAGYA. BUT INDRA* WILL CERTAINLY TRY TO HAMPER IT.
NEXT DAY, ATRI CAME TO PRUTHA'S COURT.
I AM BLESSED THAT A GREAT SAGE LIKE YOU HAS GRACED MY PALACE.
GOD BLESS YOU WITH MORE PROSPERITY AND POWER.
I AM HERE TO ASK YOU FOR A FAVOUR, O KING.

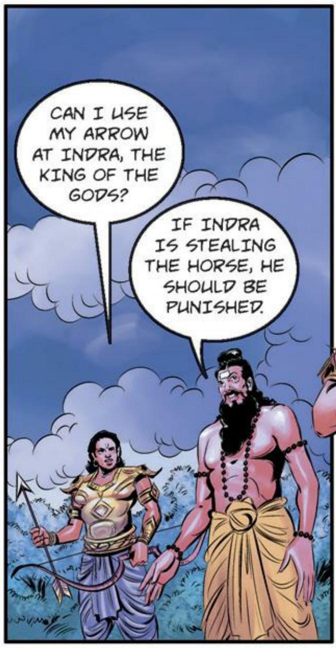
*THOSE WHO DID A HUNDRED ASHWAMEDHA YAGYAS WOULD BECOME THE NEXT LORD OF GODS. SO INDRA, THE LORD OF GODS TRIED TO STOP ANYONE FROM COMPLETING THAT NUMBER.

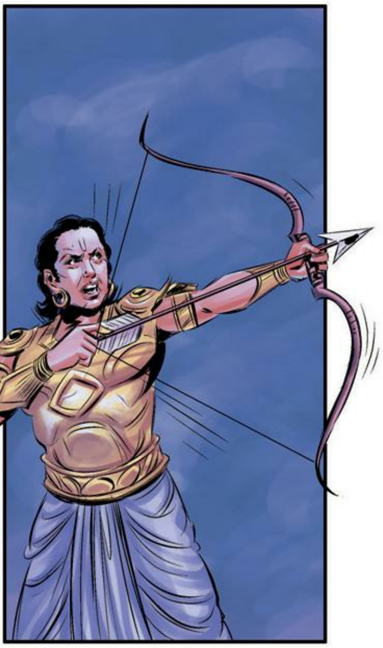

I HAVE COME TO ASK YOU FOR ALMS TO SUPPORT MY CHILDREN AND STUDENTS.
ALL THAT I HAVE IS YOURS, HOLY ONE, BUT I WANT YOUR HELP IN AN IMPORTANT MATTER.
HOW CAN I, AN ASCETIC, HELP A KING LIKE YOU?
I WANT TO PERFORM THE ASHWAMEDHA YAGYA, AND I WANT YOU, ALONG WITH MY SON, TO GUARD THE SACRIFICIAL HORSE.
I UNDERSTAND. I WILL DO MY BEST TO KEEP INDRA FROM STEALING IT.
SO, ATRI AND THE PRINCE GUARDED THE HORSE BY DAY AND BY NIGHT.

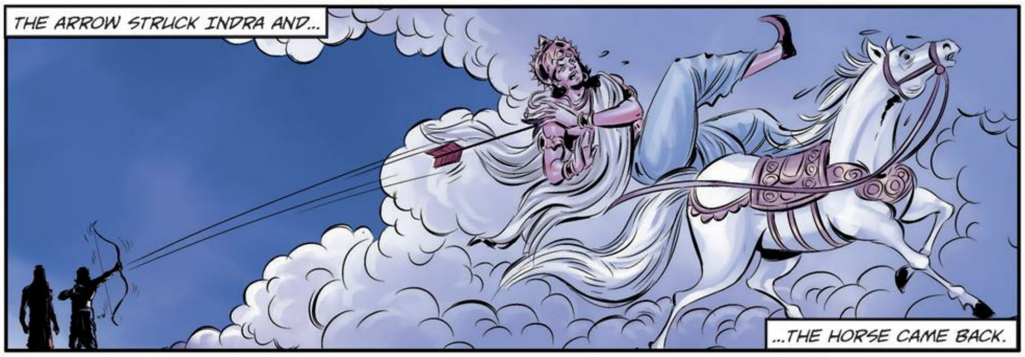

INDRA BIDED HIS TIME. ONE NIGHT WHEN BOTH OF THEM HAD DOZED OFF -
THIS IS MY CHANCE. I MUST GET AWAY BEFORE THEY WAKE UP.

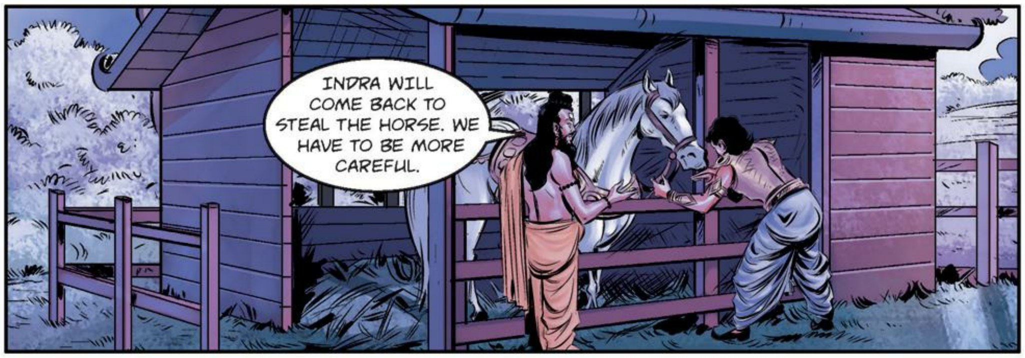

BUT AS HE FLEW UP -
NEIGH!
INDRA!

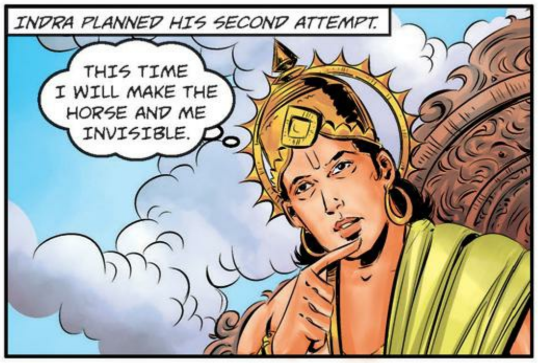

WAKE UP, PRINCE! INDRA IS ESCAPING WITH THE HORSE.

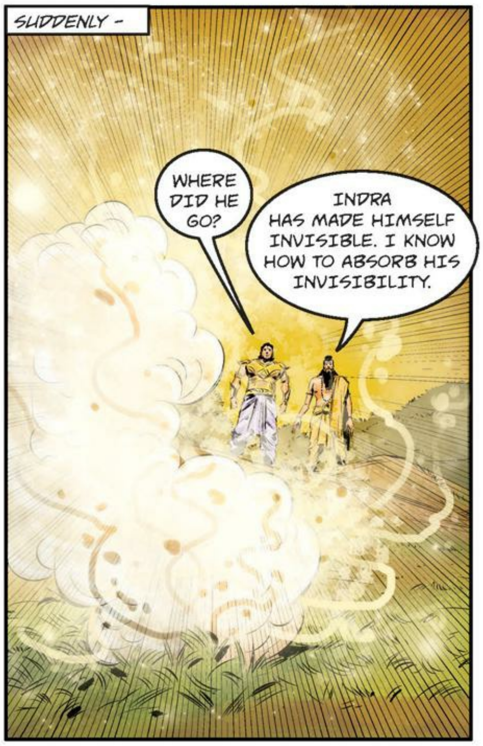

CAN I USE MY ARROW AT INDRA, THE KING OF THE GODS?
IF INDRA IS STEALING THE HORSE, HE SHOULD BE PUNISHED.

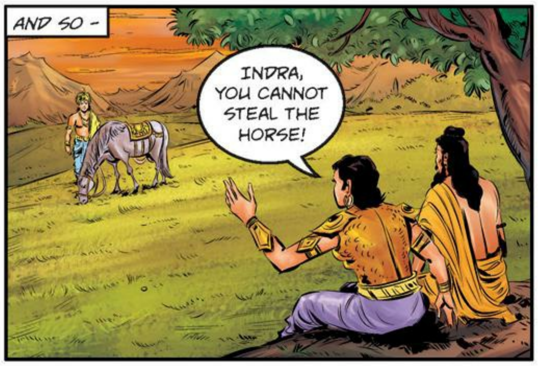


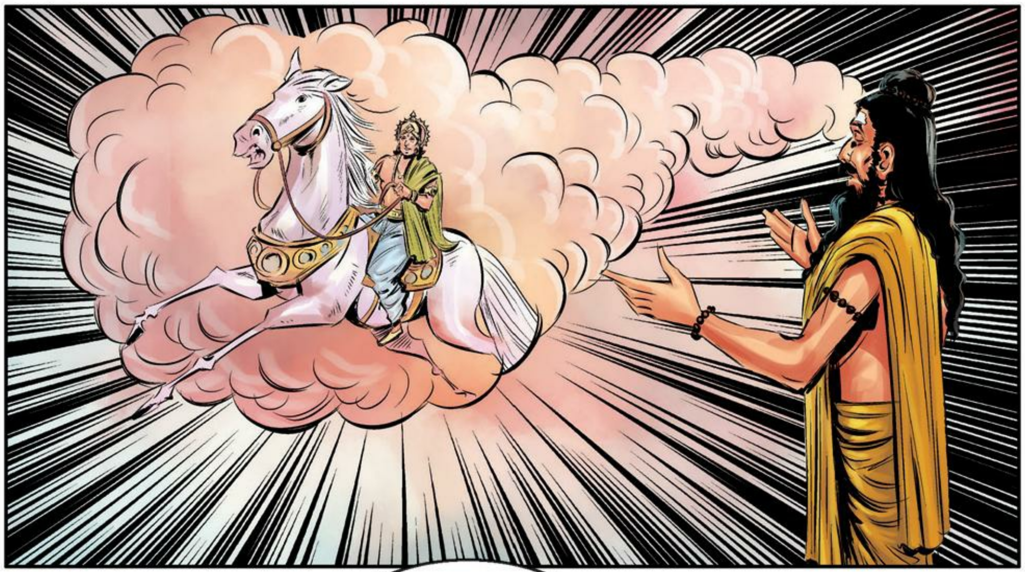

THE ARROW STRUCK INDRA AND...
...THE HORSE CAME BACK.

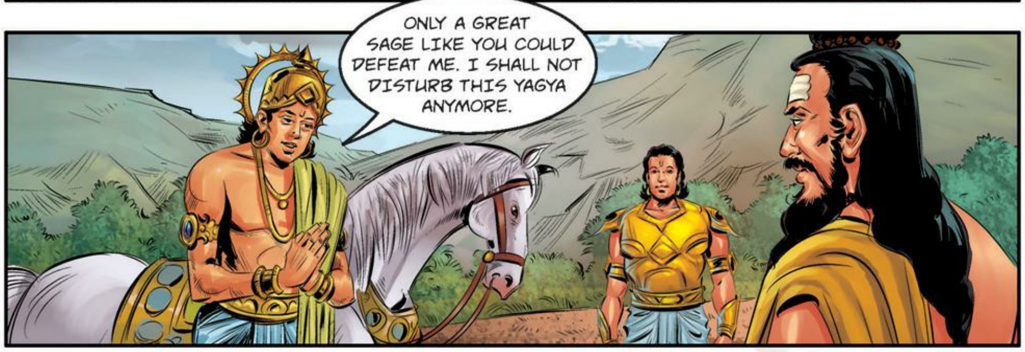

INDRA WILL COME BACK TO STEAL THE HORSE. WE HAVE TO BE MORE CAREFUL.

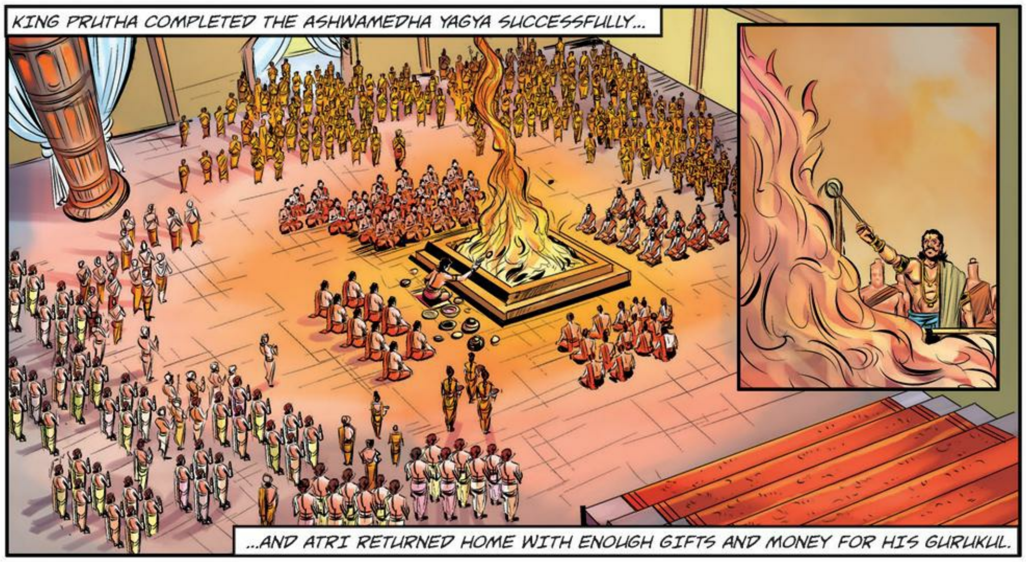

INDRA PLANNED HIS SECOND ATTEMPT.
THIS TIME I WILL MAKE THE HORSE AND ME INVISIBLE.

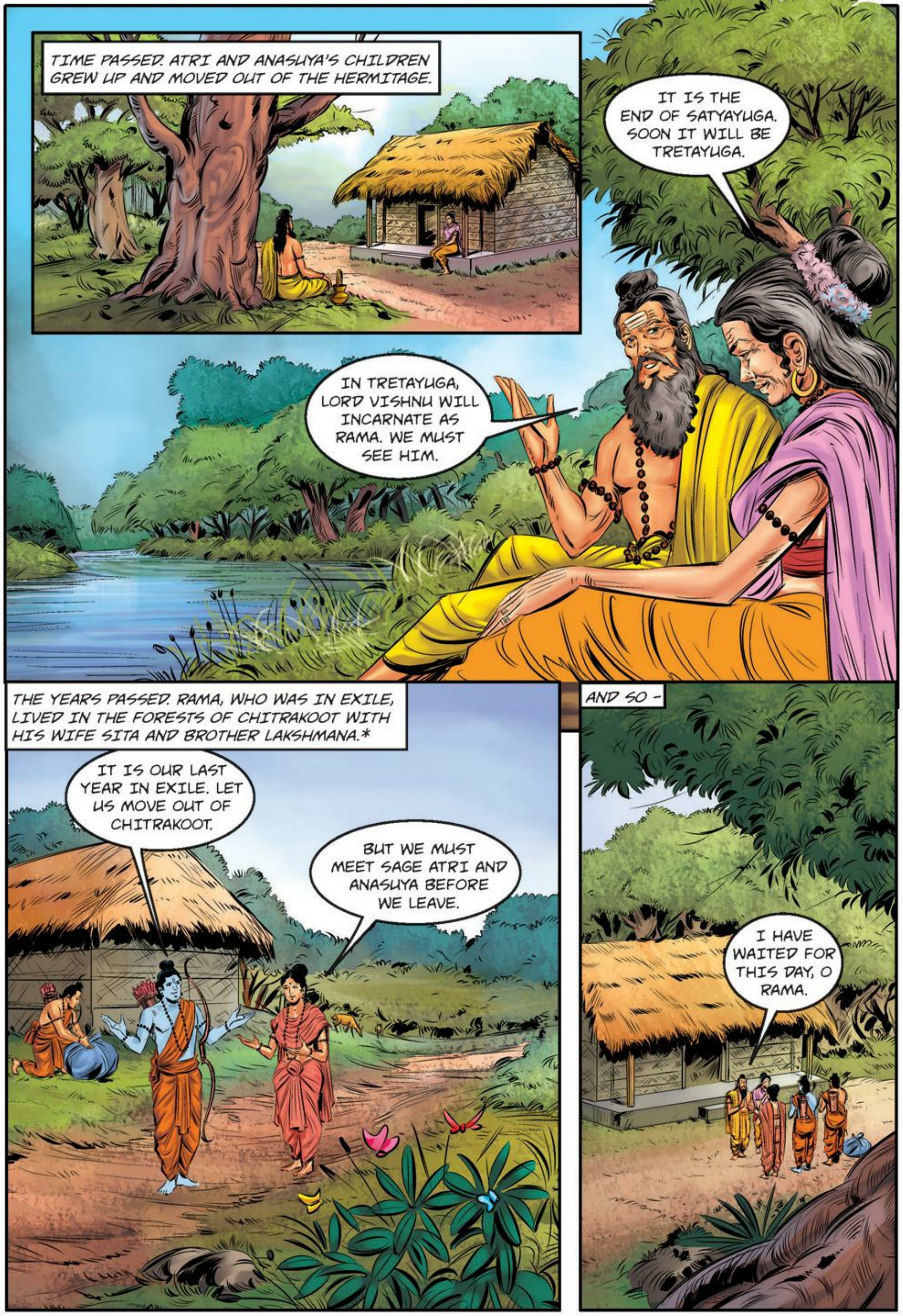

SUDDENLY -
WHERE DID HE GO?
INDRA HAS MADE HIMSELF INVISIBLE. I KNOW HOW TO ABSORB HIS INVISIBILITY.


AND SO -
INDRA, YOU CANNOT STEAL THE HORSE!

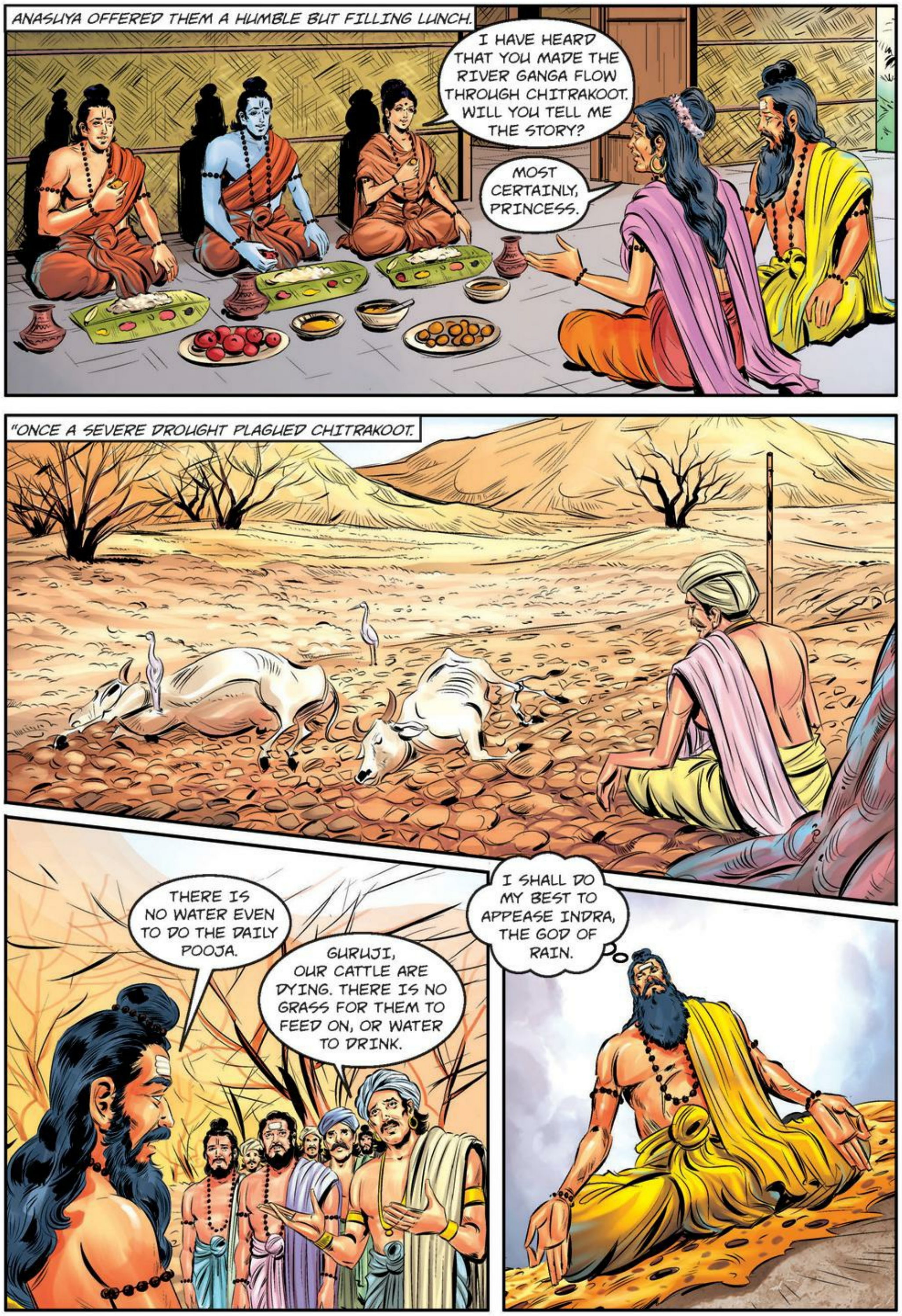


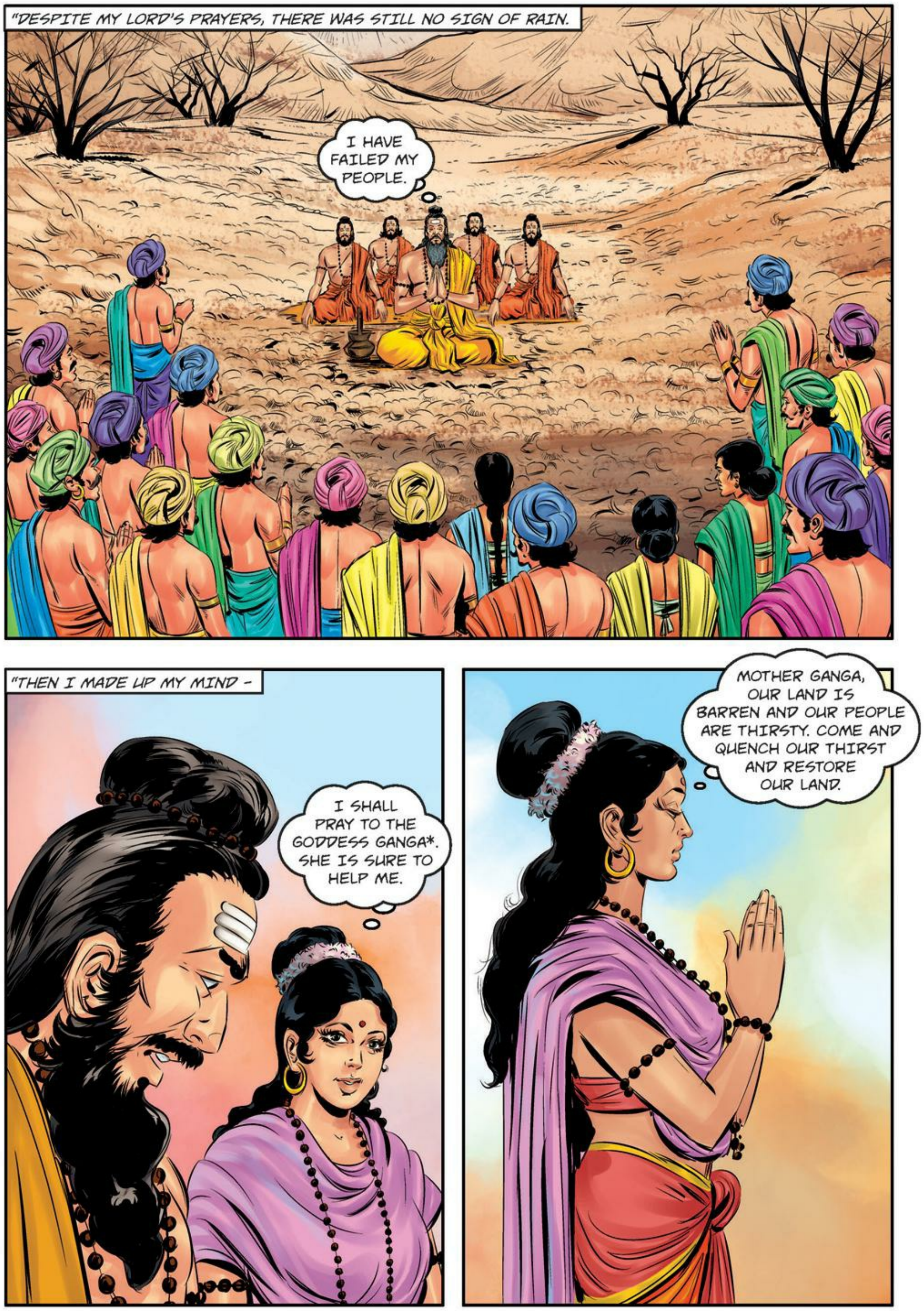

ONLY A GREAT SAGE LIKE YOU COULD DEFEAT ME. I SHALL NOT DISTURB THIS YAGYA ANYMORE.


KING PRUTHA COMPLETED THE ASHWAMEDHA YAGYA SUCCESSFULLY...
...AND ATRI RETURNED HOME WITH ENOUGH GIFTS AND MONEY FOR HIS GURUKUL.

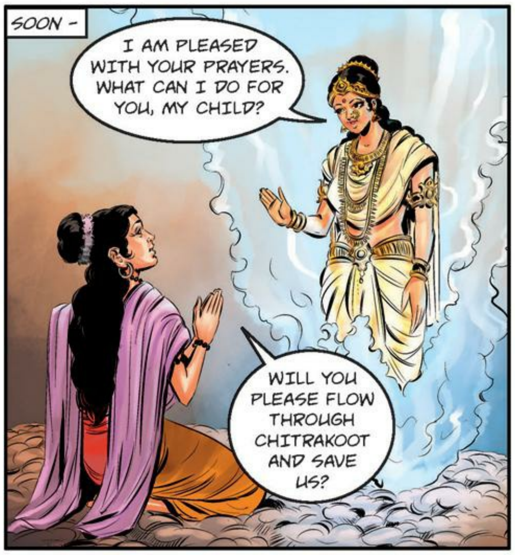

TIME PASSED. ATRI AND ANASUYA'S CHILDREN GREW UP AND MOVED OUT OF THE HERMITAGE.
IT IS THE END OF SATYAYUGA. SOON IT WILL BE TRETAYUGA.
IN TRETAYUGA, LORD VISHNU WILL INCARNATE AS RAMA. WE MUST SEE HIM.
THE YEARS PASSED. RAMA, WHO WAS IN EXILE, LIVED IN THE FORESTS OF CHITRAKOOT WITH HIS WIFE SITA AND BROTHER LAKSHMANA.*
IT IS OUR LAST YEAR IN EXILE. LET US MOVE OUT OF CHITRAKOOT.
BUT WE MUST MEET SAGE ATRI AND ANASUYA BEFORE WE LEAVE.
AND SO –
I HAVE WAITED FOR THIS DAY, O RAMA.

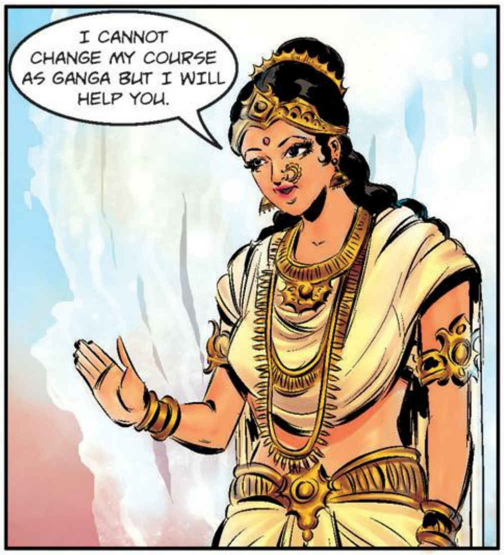
*RAMA WAS IN EXILE FOR 14 YEARS WITH LAKSHMANA AND SITA.

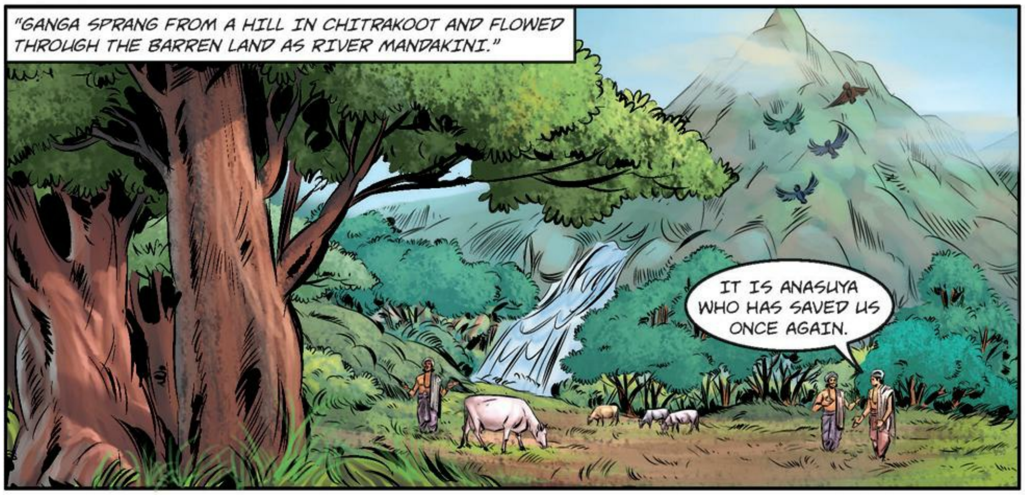

ANASUYA OFFERED THEM A HUMBLE BUT FILLING LUNCH.
I HAVE HEARD THAT YOU MADE THE RIVER GANGA FLOW THROUGH CHITRAKOOT. WILL YOU TELL ME THE STORY?
MOST CERTAINLY, PRINCESS.
"ONCE A SEVERE DROUGHT PLAGUED CHITRAKOOT.
THERE IS NO WATER EVEN TO DO THE DAILY POOJA.
GURUJI, OUR CATTLE ARE DYING. THERE IS NO GRASS FOR THEM TO FEED ON, OR WATER TO DRINK.
I SHALL DO MY BEST TO APPEASE INDRA, THE GOD OF RAIN.

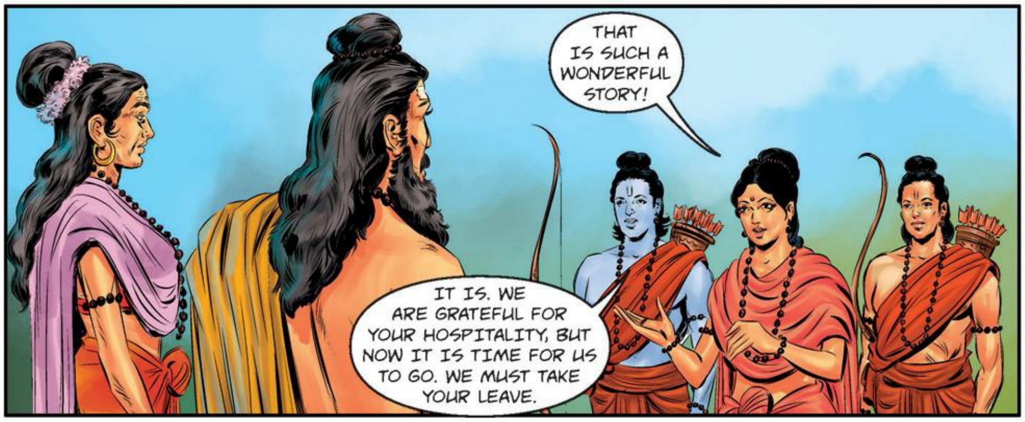

"DESPITE MY LORD'S PRAYERS, THERE WAS STILL NO SIGN OF RAIN.
I HAVE FAILED MY PEOPLE.
"THEN I MADE UP MY MIND –
I SHALL PRAY TO THE GODDESS GANGA*. SHE IS SURE TO HELP ME.
MOTHER GANGA, OUR LAND IS BARREN AND OUR PEOPLE ARE THIRSTY. COME AND QUENCH OUR THIRST AND RESTORE OUR LAND.

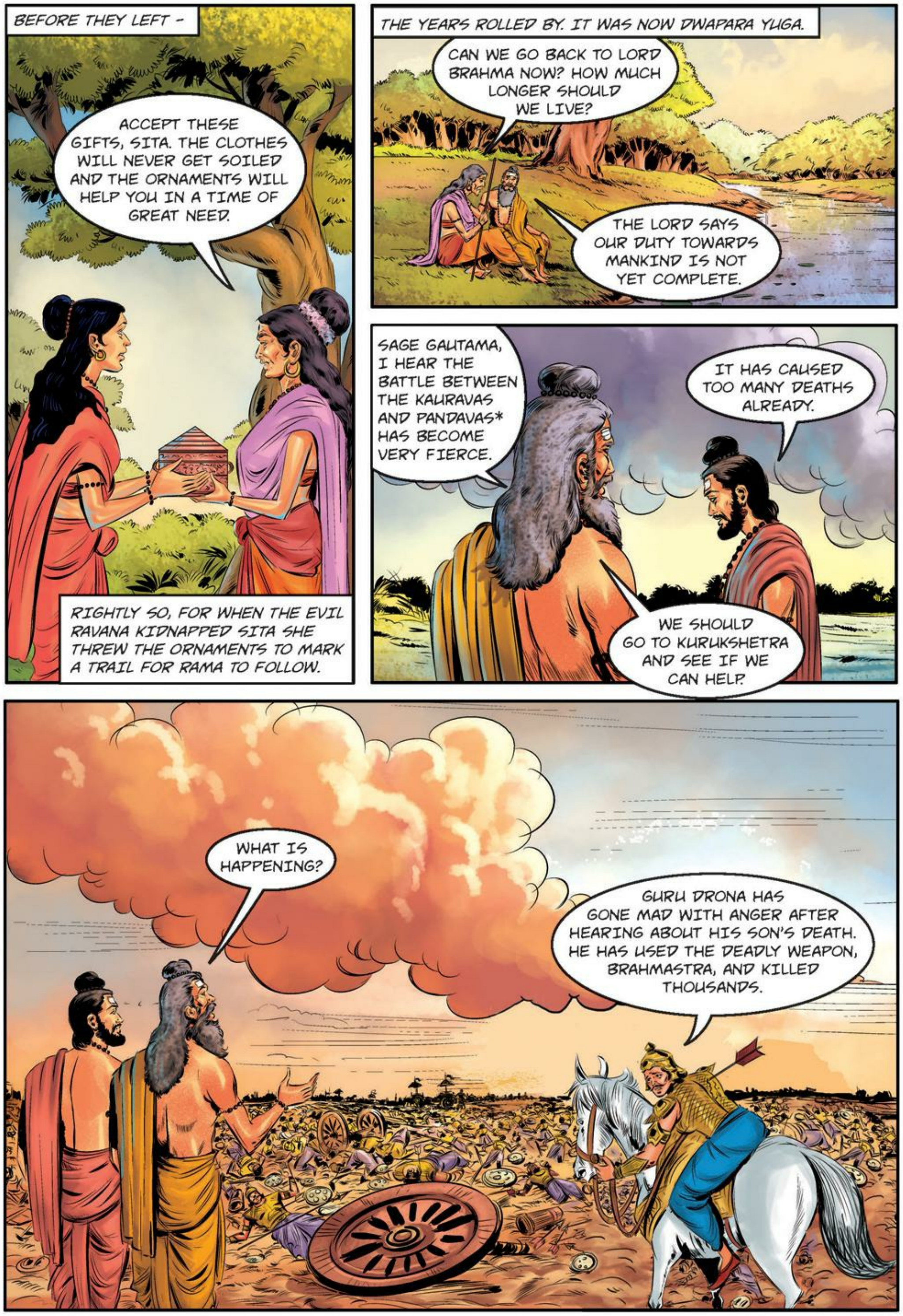
*GANGA HAD INCARNATED ON EARTH AS A HOLY RIVER.


SOON -
I AM PLEASED WITH YOUR PRAYERS. WHAT CAN I DO FOR YOU, MY CHILD?
WILL YOU PLEASE FLOW THROUGH CHITRAKOOT AND SAVE US?


I CANNOT CHANGE MY COURSE AS GANGA BUT I WILL HELP YOU.


"GANGA SPRANG FROM A HILL IN CHITRAKOOT AND FLOWED THROUGH THE BARREN LAND AS RIVER MANDAKINI."
IT IS ANASUYA WHO HAS SAVED US ONCE AGAIN.


THAT IS SUCH A WONDERFUL STORY!
IT IS. WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR YOUR HOSPITALITY, BUT NOW IT IS TIME FOR US TO GO. WE MUST TAKE YOUR LEAVE.


BEFORE THEY LEFT –
ACCEPT THESE GIFTS, SITA. THE CLOTHES WILL NEVER GET SOILED AND THE ORNAMENTS WILL HELP YOU IN A TIME OF GREAT NEED.
RIGHTLY SO, FOR WHEN THE EVIL RAVANA KIDNAPPED SITA SHE THREW THE ORNAMENTS TO MARK A TRAIL FOR RAMA TO FOLLOW.
THE YEARS ROLLED BY. IT WAS NOW DWAPARA YUGA.
CAN WE GO BACK TO LORD BRAHMA NOW? HOW MUCH LONGER SHOULD WE LIVE?
THE LORD SAYS OUR DUTY TOWARDS MANKIND IS NOT YET COMPLETE.
SAGE GAUTAMA, I HEAR THE BATTLE BETWEEN THE KAURAVAS AND PANDAVAS* HAS BECOME VERY FIERCE.
IT HAS CAUSED TOO MANY DEATHS ALREADY.
WE SHOULD GO TO KURUKSHETRA AND SEE IF WE CAN HELP.
WHAT IS HAPPENING?
GURU DRONA HAS GONE MAD WITH ANGER AFTER HEARING ABOUT HIS SON'S DEATH. HE HAS USED THE DEADLY WEAPON, BRAHMASTRA, AND KILLED THOUSANDS.

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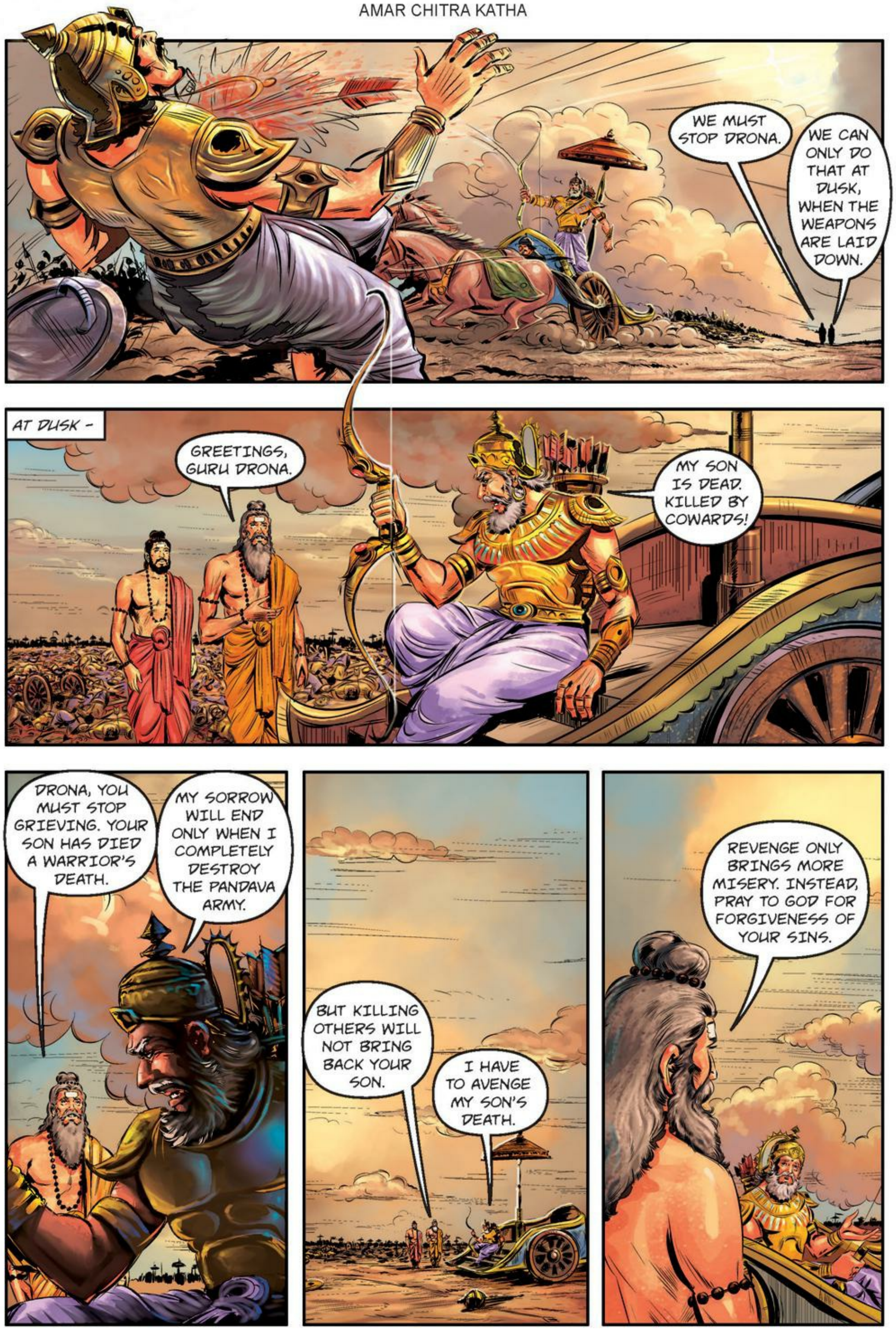
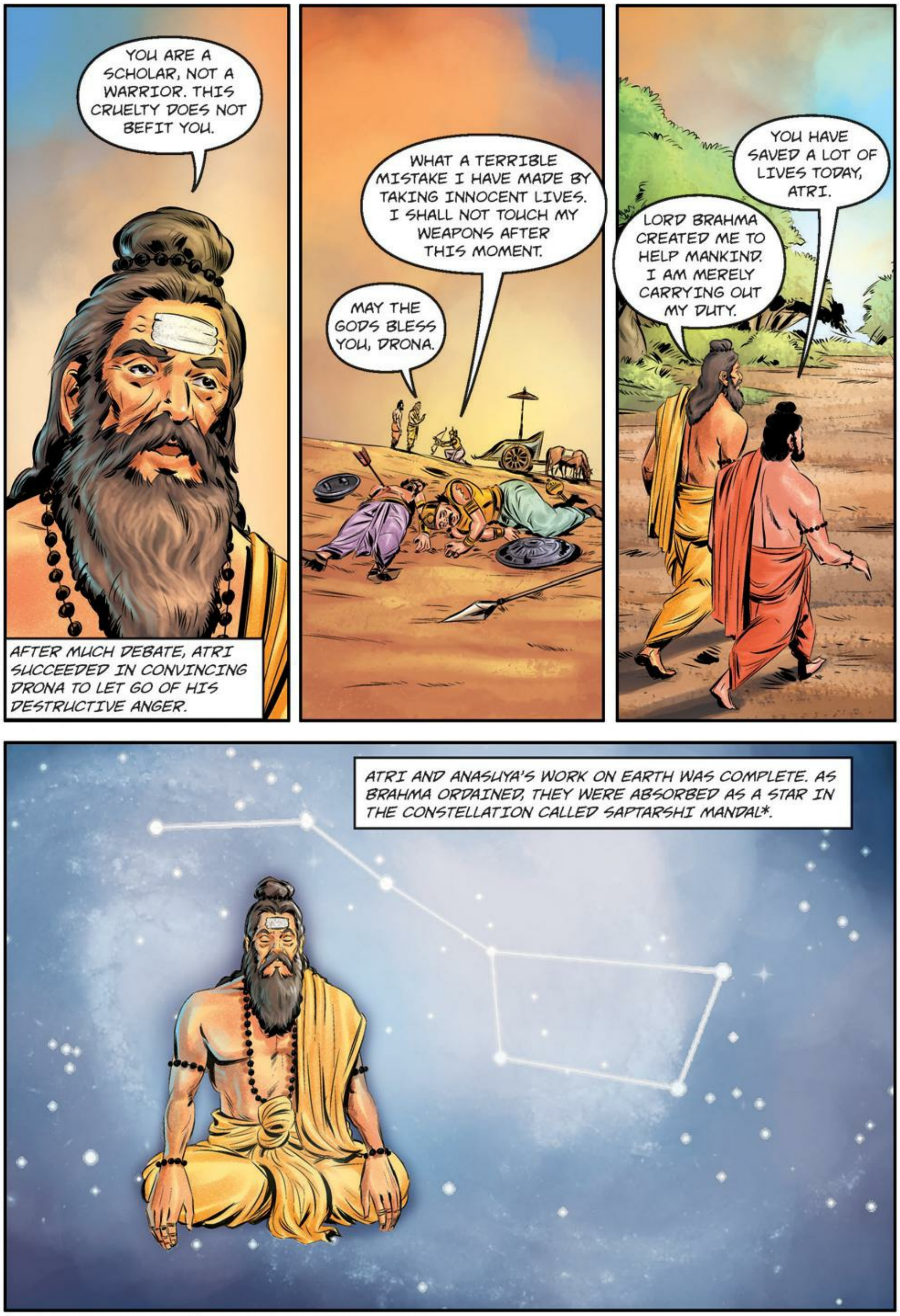
*THE MAHABHARATA WAR WAS FOUGHT BETWEEN THE KAURAVAS AND PANDAVAS AT KURUKSHETRA.


WE MUST STOP DRONA.
WE CAN ONLY DO THAT AT DUSK, WHEN THE WEAPONS ARE LAID DOWN.
AT DUSK –
GREETINGS, GURU DRONA.
MY SON IS DEAD. KILLED BY COWARDS!
DRONA, YOU MUST STOP GRIEVING. YOUR SON HAS DIED A WARRIOR'S DEATH.
MY SORROW WILL END ONLY WHEN I COMPLETELY DESTROY THE PANDAVA ARMY.
BUT KILLING OTHERS WILL NOT BRING BACK YOUR SON.
I HAVE TO AVENGE MY SON'S DEATH.
REVENGE ONLY BRINGS MORE MISERY. INSTEAD, PRAY TO GOD FOR FORGIVENESS OF YOUR SINS.


YOU ARE A SCHOLAR, NOT A WARRIOR. THIS CRUELTY DOES NOT BEFIT YOU.
AFTER MUCH DEBATE, ATRI SUCCEEDED IN CONVINCING DRONA TO LET GO OF HIS DESTRUCTIVE ANGER.
WHAT A TERRIBLE MISTAKE I HAVE MADE BY TAKING INNOCENT LIVES. I SHALL NOT TOUCH MY WEAPONS AFTER THIS MOMENT.
MAY THE GODS BLESS YOU, DRONA.
YOU HAVE SAVED A LOT OF LIVES TODAY, ATRI.
LORD BRAHMA CREATED ME TO HELP MANKIND. I AM MERELY CARRYING OUT MY DUTY.
ATRI AND ANASUYA'S WORK ON EARTH WAS COMPLETE. AS BRAHMA ORDAINED, THEY WERE ABSORBED AS A STAR IN THE CONSTELLATION CALLED SAPTARSHI MANDAL*.

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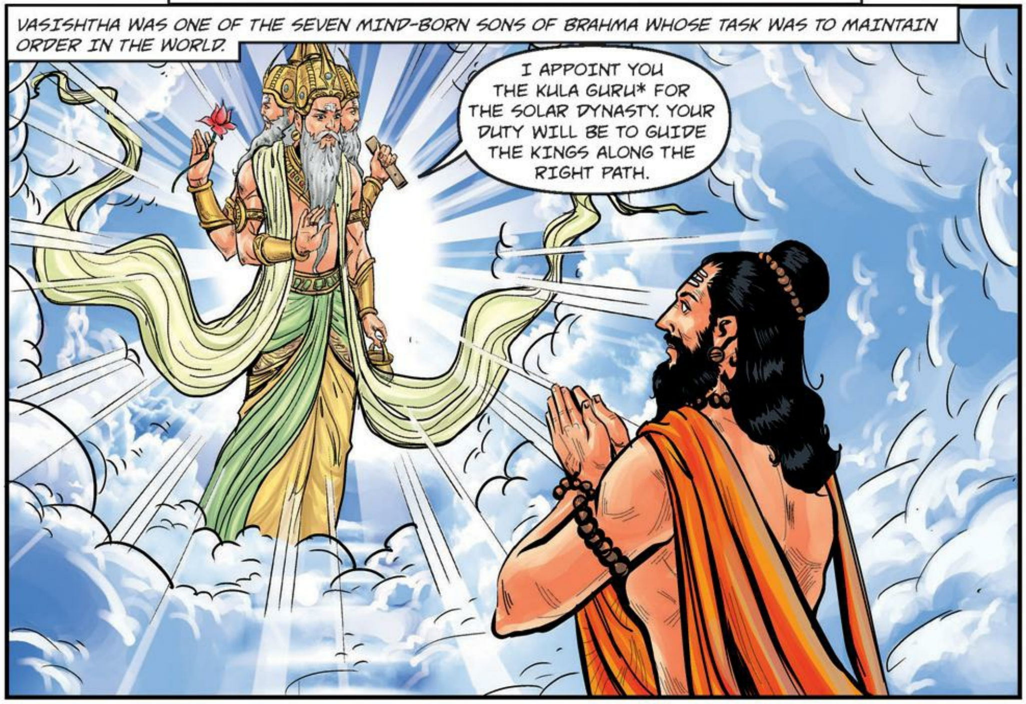
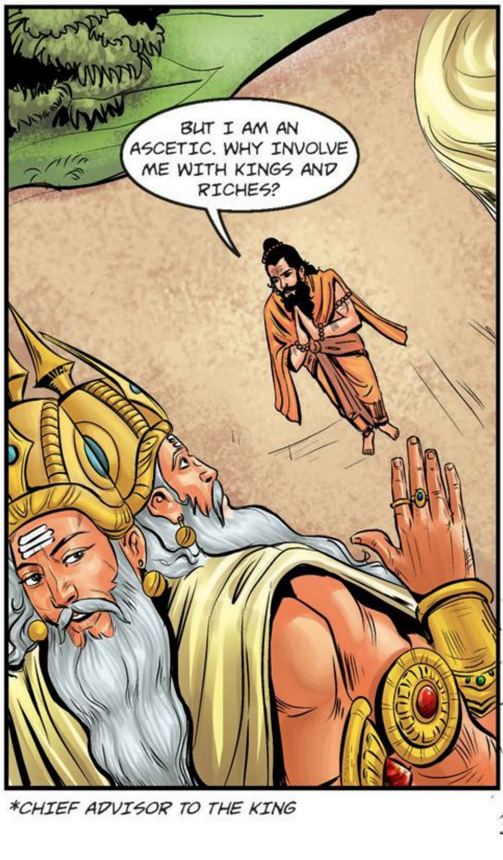
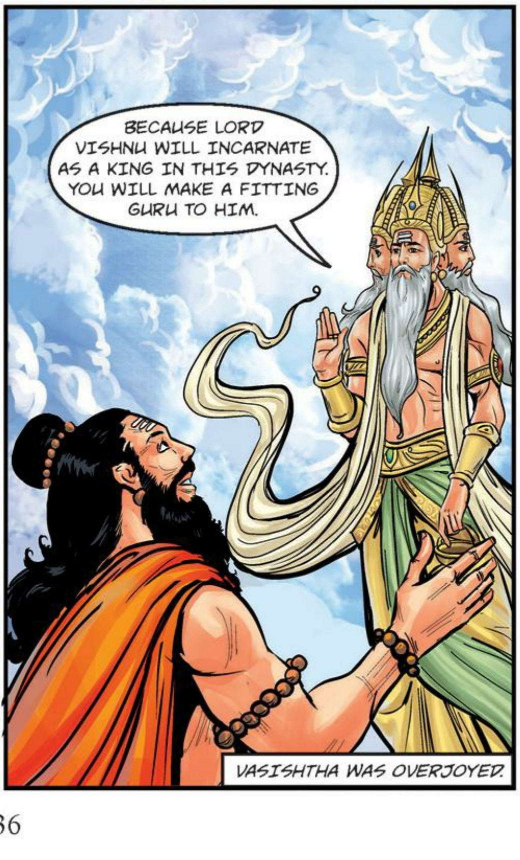
*THE FORMATION KNOWN AS THE SAPTARSHI MANDAL IN INDIA, IS ALSO KNOWN AS THE BIG DIPPER.

VASISHTHA AND ARUNDHATI


VASISHTHA WAS ONE OF THE SEVEN MIND-BORN SONS OF BRAHMA WHOSE TASK WAS TO MAINTAIN ORDER IN THE WORLD.
I APPOINT YOU THE KULA GURU* FOR THE SOLAR DYNASTY. YOUR DUTY WILL BE TO GUIDE THE KINGS ALONG THE RIGHT PATH.


BUT I AM AN ASCETIC. WHY INVOLVE ME WITH KINGS AND RICHES?


BECAUSE LORD VISHNU WILL INCARNATE AS A KING IN THIS DYNASTY. YOU WILL MAKE A FITTING GURU TO HIM.
VASISHTHA WAS OVERJOYED.

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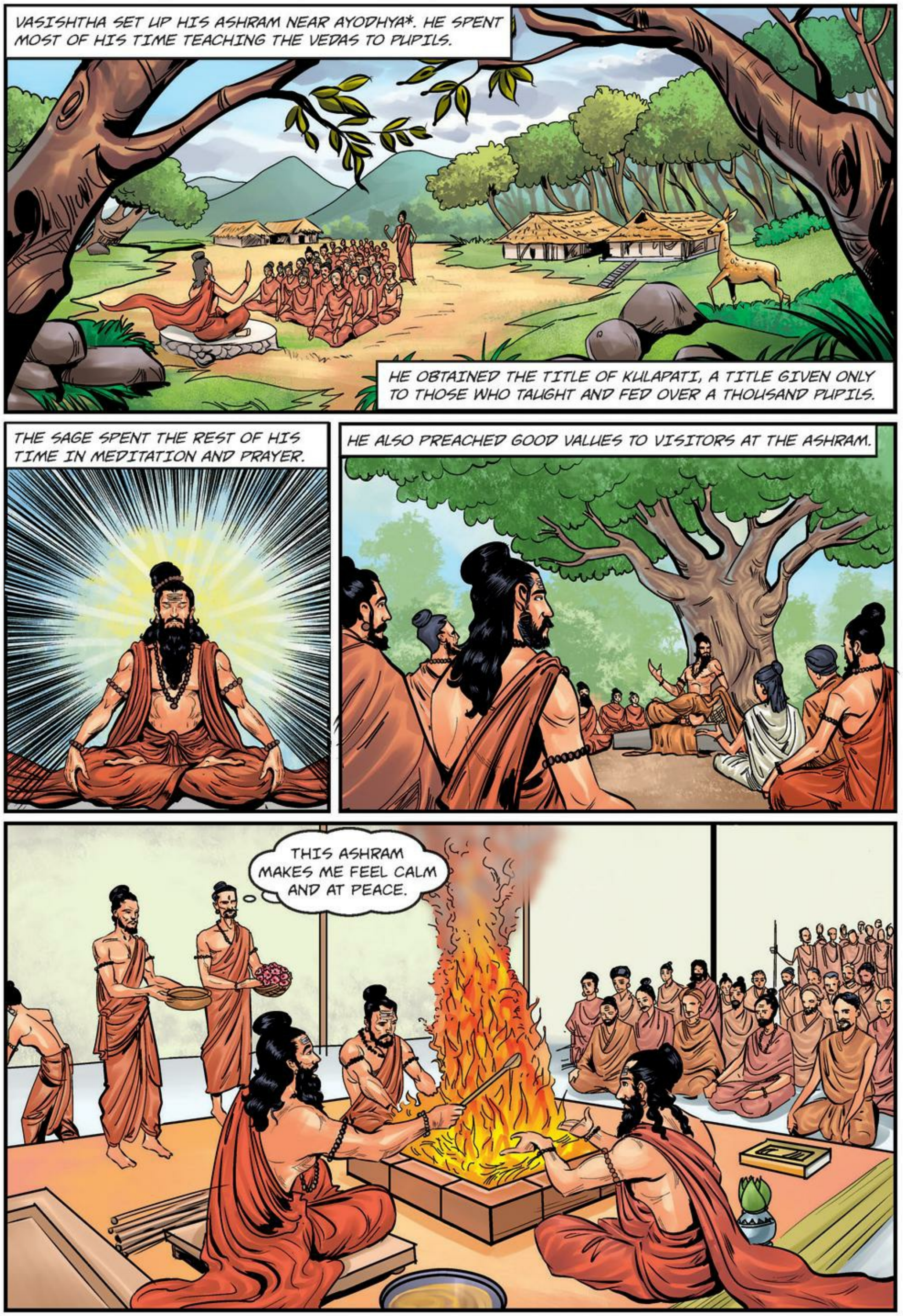
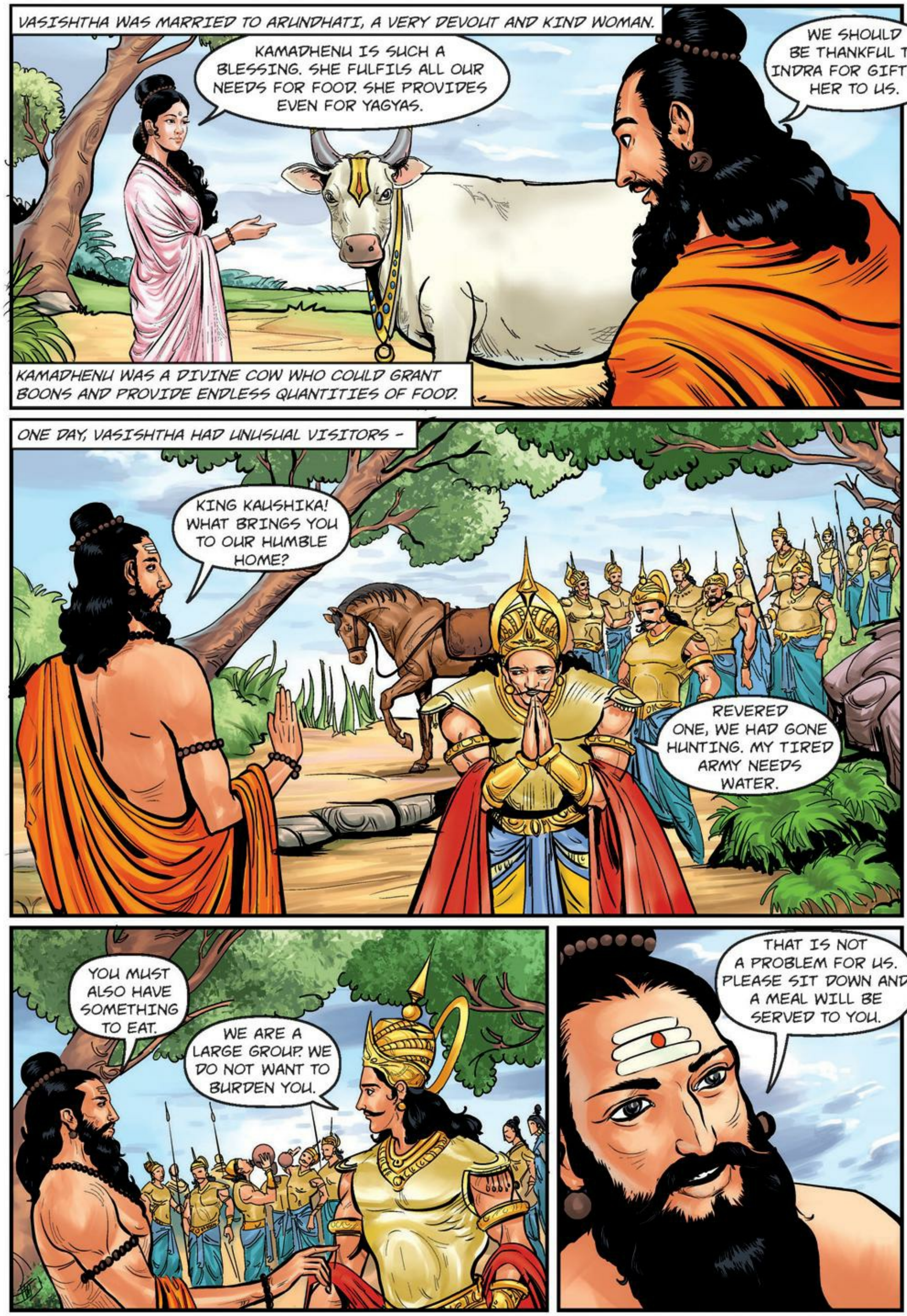
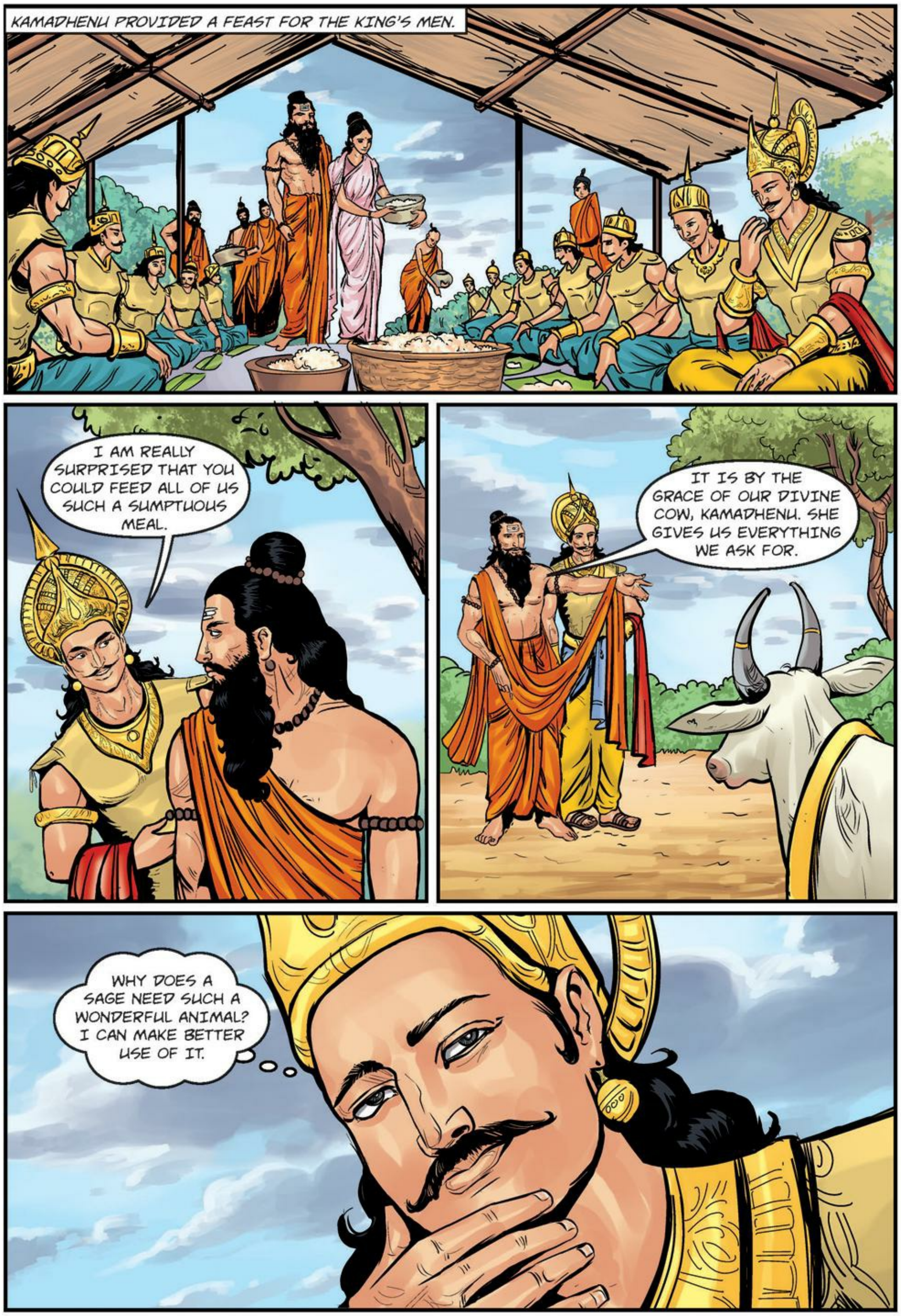
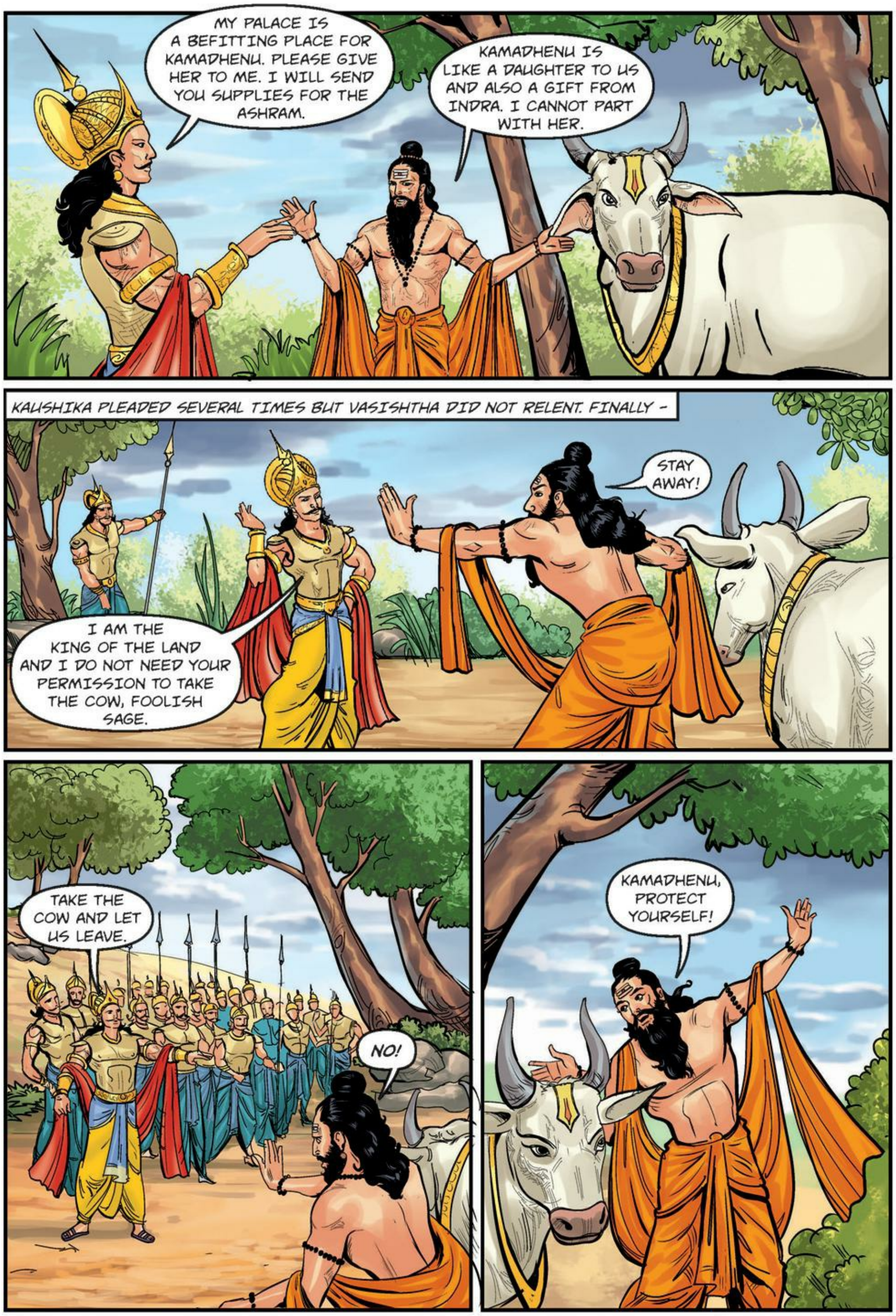
*CHIEF ADVISOR TO THE KING

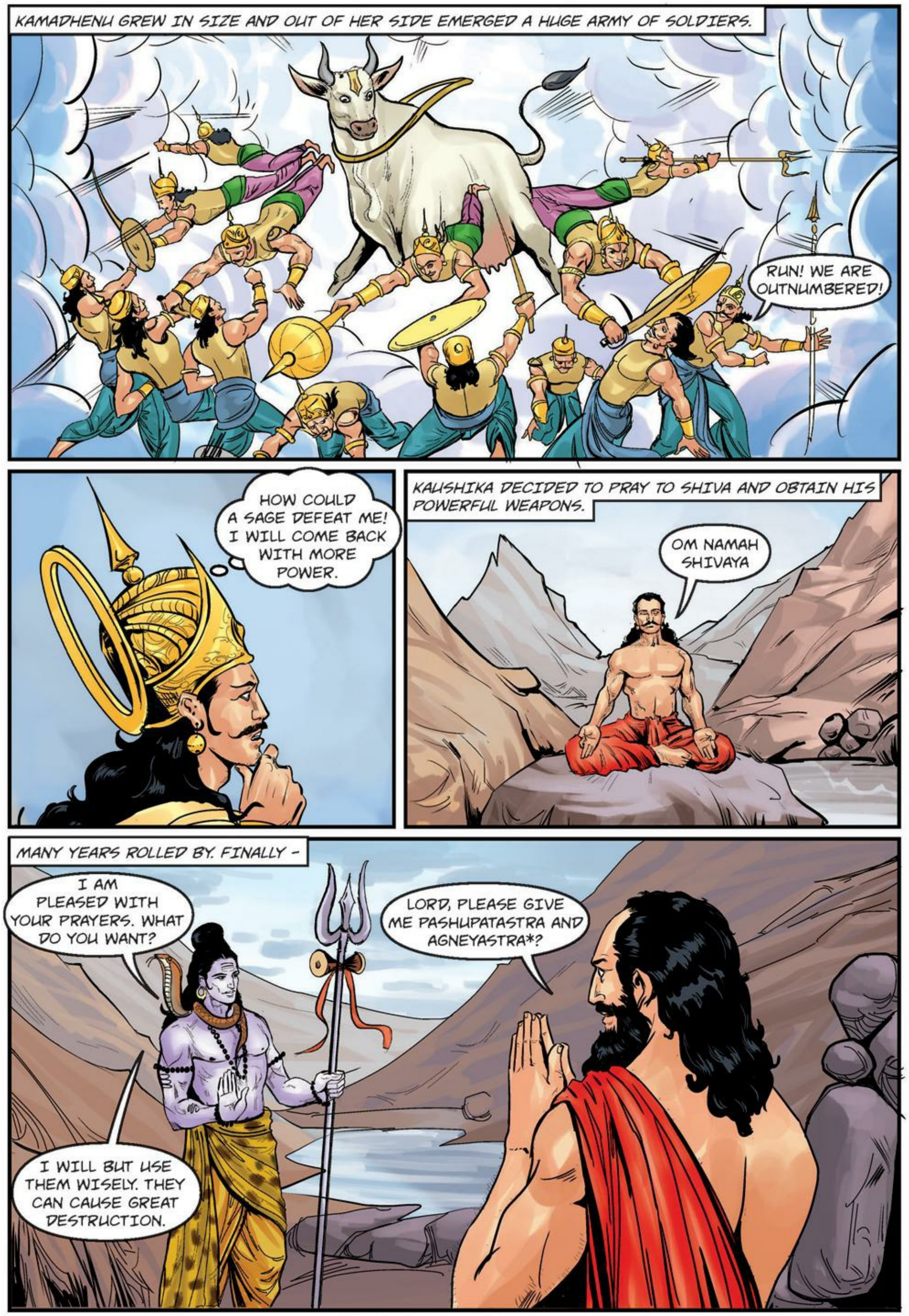

VASISHTHA SET UP HIS ASHRAM NEAR AYODHYA*. HE SPENT MOST OF HIS TIME TEACHING THE VEDAS TO PUPILS.
HE OBTAINED THE TITLE OF KULAPATI, A TITLE GIVEN ONLY TO THOSE WHO TAUGHT AND FED OVER A THOUSAND PUPILS.
THE SAGE SPENT THE REST OF HIS TIME IN MEDITATION AND PRAYER.
HE ALSO PREACHED GOOD VALUES TO VISITORS AT THE ASHRAM.
THIS ASHRAM MAKES ME FEEL CALM AND AT PEACE.

*THE KINGS OF THE SOLAR DYNASTY RULED THE KOSALA KINGDOM WITH AYODHYA AS THEIR CAPITAL.

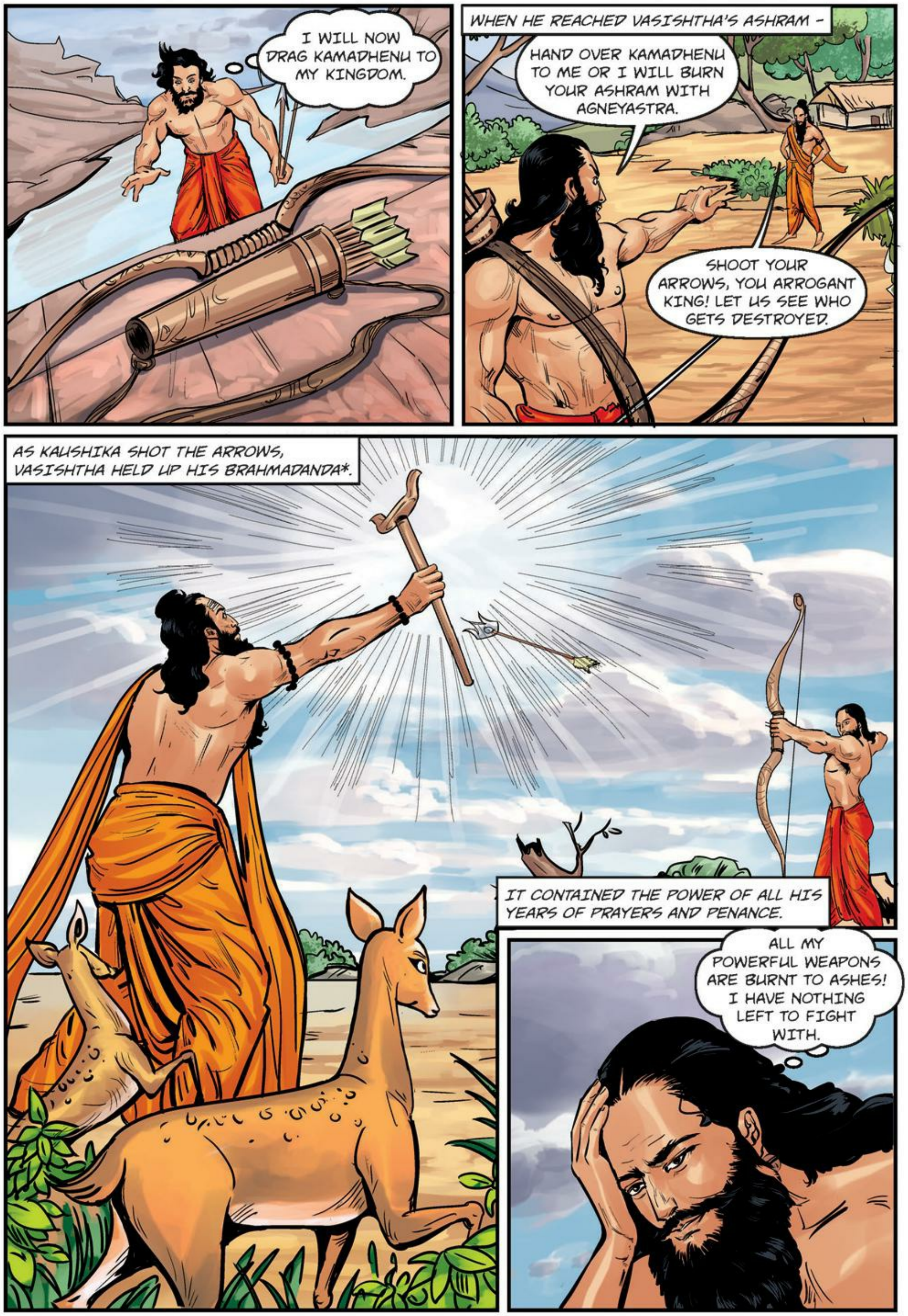

VASISHTHA WAS MARRIED TO ARUNDHATI, A VERY DEVOUT AND KIND WOMAN.
KAMADHENU IS SUCH A BLESSING. SHE FULFILS ALL OUR NEEDS FOR FOOD. SHE PROVIDES EVEN FOR YAGYAS.
WE SHOULD BE THANKFUL TO INDRA FOR GIFTING HER TO US.
KAMADHENU WAS A DIVINE COW WHO COULD GRANT BOONS AND PROVIDE ENDLESS QUANTITIES OF FOOD.
ONE DAY, VASISHTHA HAD UNUSUAL VISITORS –
KING KAUSHIKA! WHAT BRINGS YOU TO OUR HUMBLE HOME?
REVERED ONE, WE HAD GONE HUNTING. MY TIRED ARMY NEEDS WATER.
YOU MUST ALSO HAVE SOMETHING TO EAT.
WE ARE A LARGE GROUP. WE DO NOT WANT TO BURDEN YOU.
THAT IS NOT A PROBLEM FOR US. PLEASE SIT DOWN AND A MEAL WILL BE SERVED TO YOU.


KAMADHENU PROVIDED A FEAST FOR THE KING'S MEN.
I AM REALLY SURPRISED THAT YOU COULD FEED ALL OF US SUCH A SUMPTUOUS MEAL.
IT IS BY THE GRACE OF OUR DIVINE COW, KAMADHENU. SHE GIVES US EVERYTHING WE ASK FOR.
WHY DOES A SAGE NEED SUCH A WONDERFUL ANIMAL? I CAN MAKE BETTER USE OF IT.

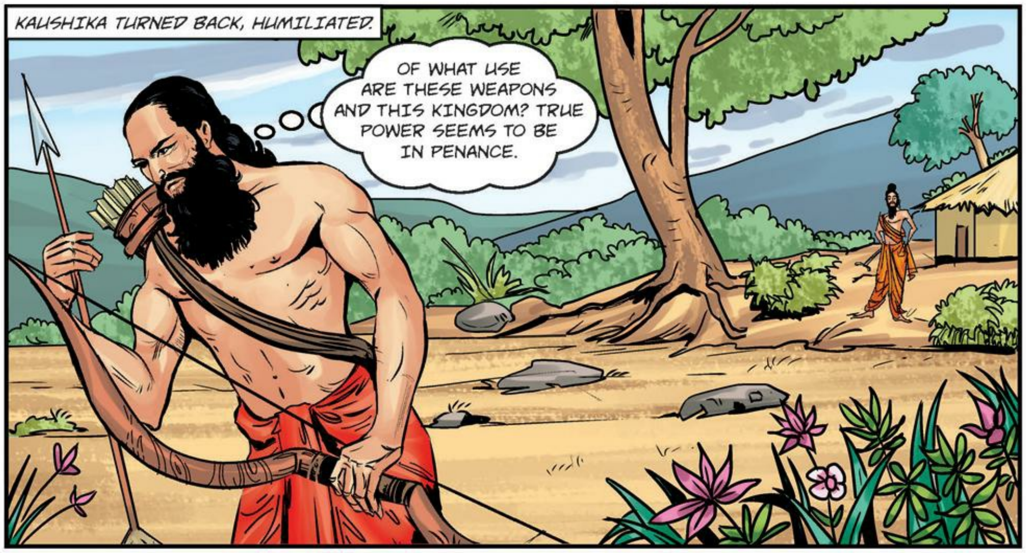

MY PALACE IS A BEFITTING PLACE FOR KAMADHENU. PLEASE GIVE HER TO ME. I WILL SEND YOU SUPPLIES FOR THE ASHRAM.
KAMADHENU IS LIKE A DAUGHTER TO US AND ALSO A GIFT FROM INDRA. I CANNOT PART WITH HER.
KAUSHIKA PLEADED SEVERAL TIMES BUT VASISHTHA DID NOT RELENT. FINALLY –
STAY AWAY!
I AM THE KING OF THE LAND AND I DO NOT NEED YOUR PERMISSION TO TAKE THE COW, FOOLISH SAGE.
TAKE THE COW AND LET US LEAVE.
NO!
KAMADHENU, PROTECT YOURSELF!

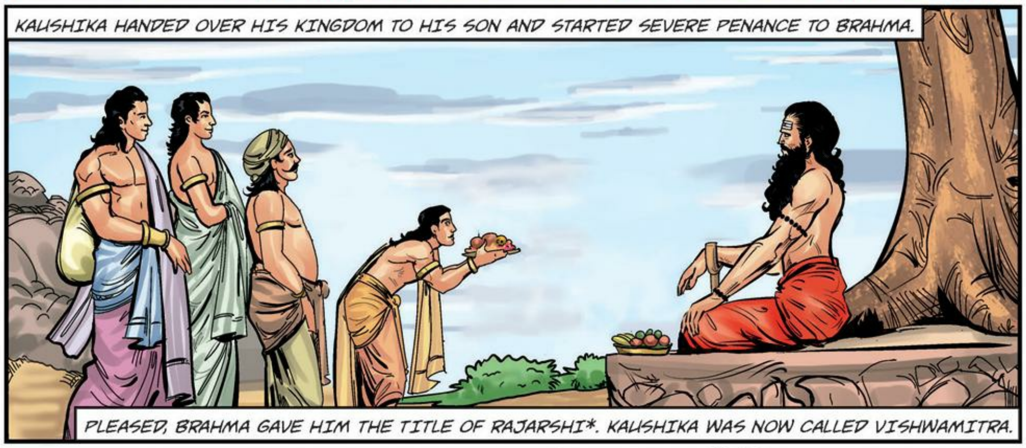

KAMADHENU GREW IN SIZE AND OUT OF HER SIDE EMERGED A HUGE ARMY OF SOLDIERS.
RUN! WE ARE OUTNUMBERED!
HOW COULD A SAGE DEFEAT ME! I WILL COME BACK WITH MORE POWER.
KAUSHIKA DECIDED TO PRAY TO SHIVA AND OBTAIN HIS POWERFUL WEAPONS.
OM NAMAH SHIVAYA
MANY YEARS ROLLED BY. FINALLY -
I AM PLEASED WITH YOUR PRAYERS. WHAT DO YOU WANT?
LORD, PLEASE GIVE ME PASHUPATASTRA AND AGNEYASTRA*?
I WILL BUT USE THEM WISELY. THEY CAN CAUSE GREAT DESTRUCTION.

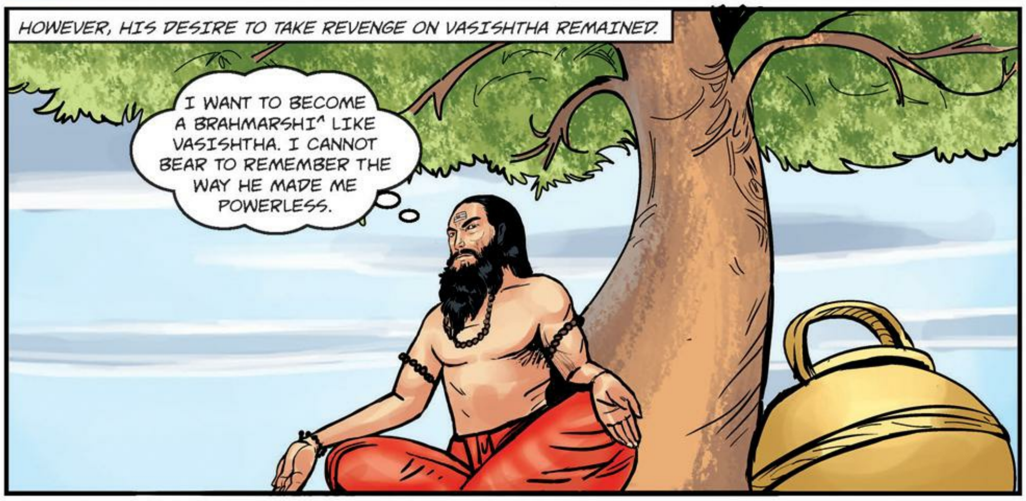
*WEAPONS INVOKED BY CHANTING VERSES


I WILL NOW DRAG KAMADHENU TO MY KINGDOM.
WHEN HE REACHED VASISHTHA'S ASHRAM -
HAND OVER KAMADHENU TO ME OR I WILL BURN YOUR ASHRAM WITH AGNEYASTRA.
SHOOT YOUR ARROWS, YOU ARROGANT KING! LET US SEE WHO GETS DESTROYED.
AS KAUSHIKA SHOT THE ARROWS, VASISHTHA HELD UP HIS BRAHMADANDA*.
IT CONTAINED THE POWER OF ALL HIS YEARS OF PRAYERS AND PENANCE.
ALL MY POWERFUL WEAPONS ARE BURNT TO ASHES! I HAVE NOTHING LEFT TO FIGHT WITH.

*BAMBOO ROD SYMBOLISING BRAHMA'S STAFF

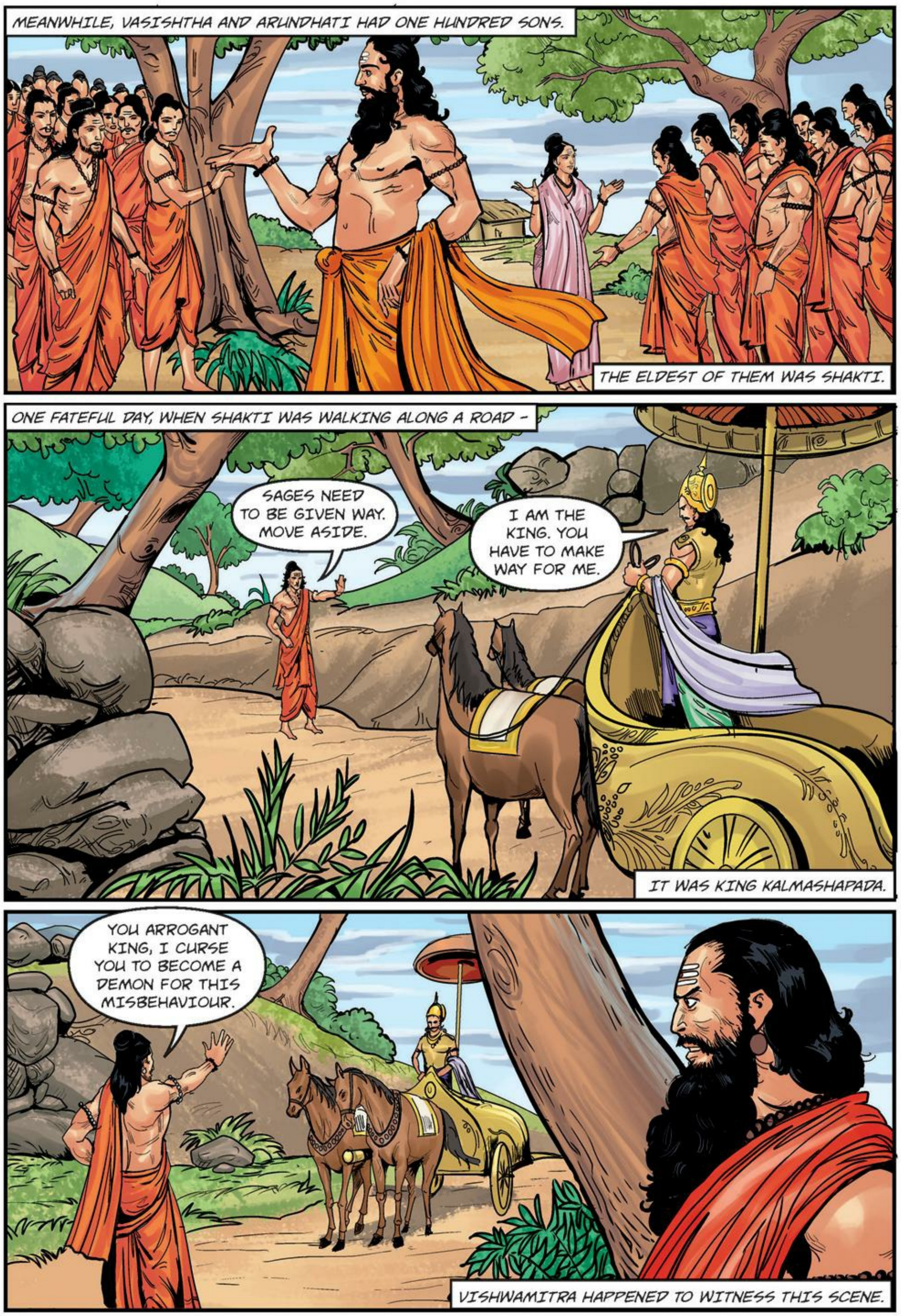

KAUSHIKA TURNED BACK, HUMILIATED.
OF WHAT USE ARE THESE WEAPONS AND THIS KINGDOM? TRUE POWER SEEMS TO BE IN PENANCE.

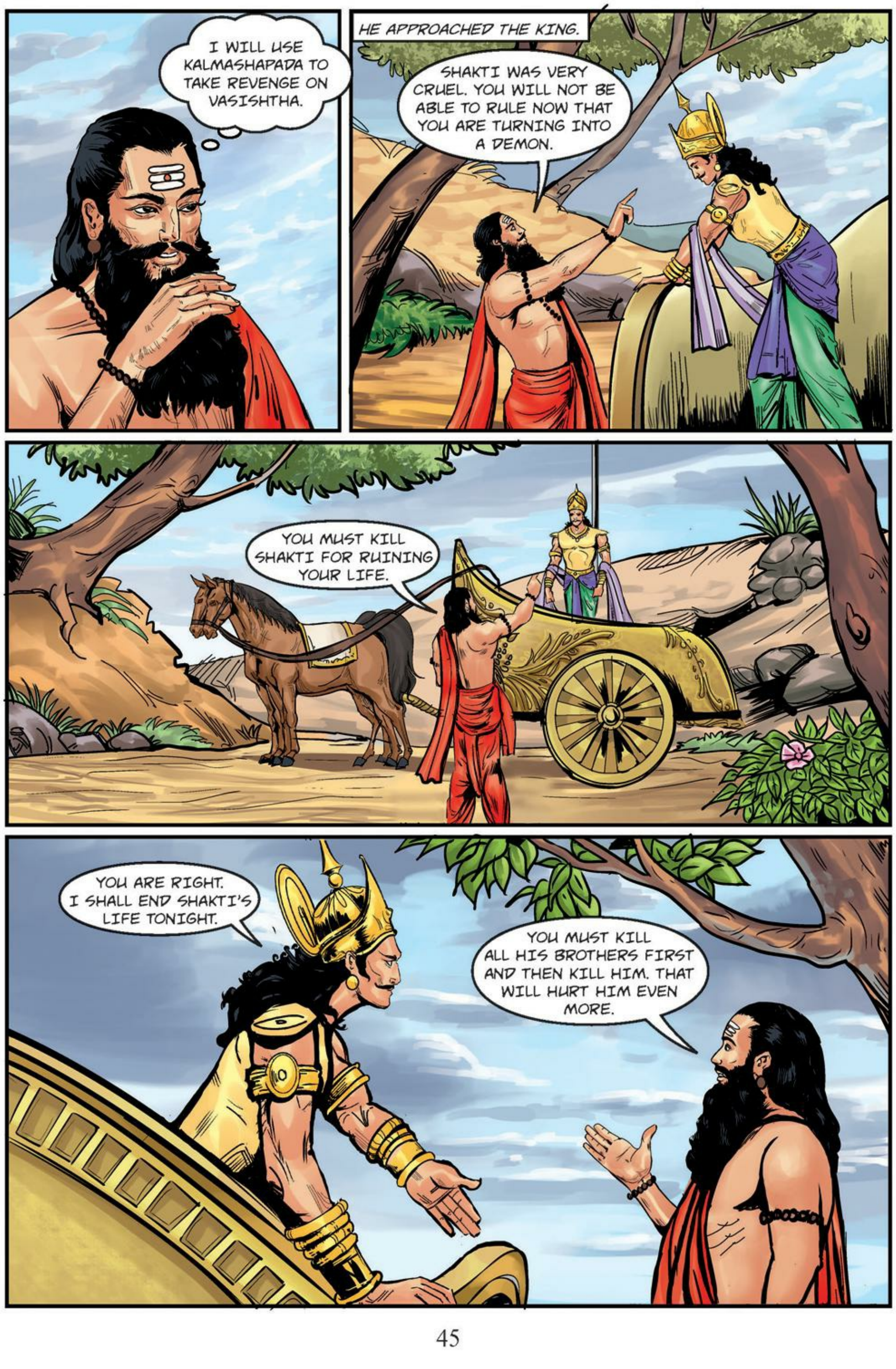

KAUSHIKA HANDED OVER HIS KINGDOM TO HIS SON AND STARTED SEVERE PENANCE TO BRAHMA.
PLEASED, BRAHMA GAVE HIM THE TITLE OF RAJARSHI*. KAUSHIKA WAS NOW CALLED VISHWAMITRA.

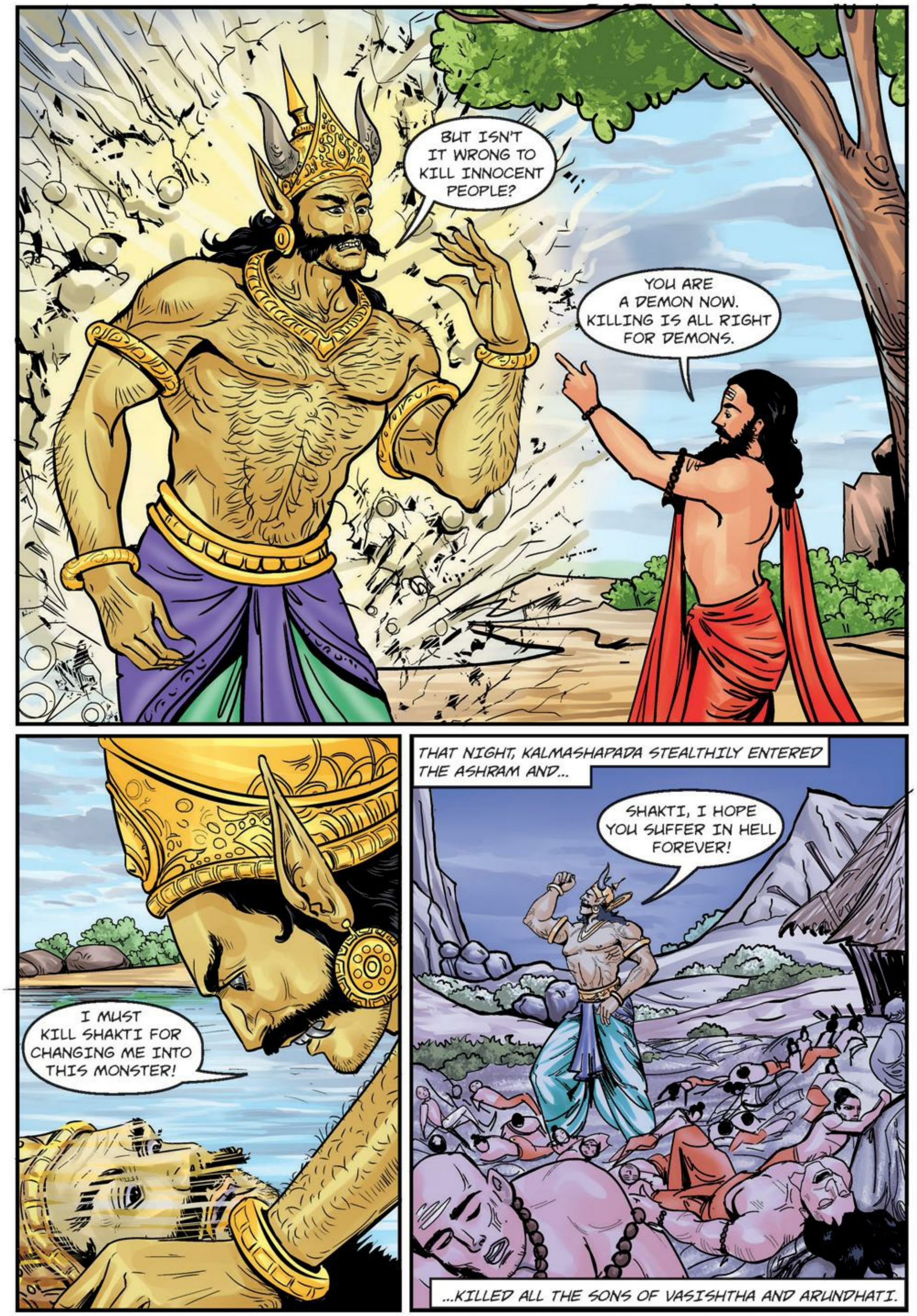

HOWEVER, HIS DESIRE TO TAKE REVENGE ON VASISHTHA REMAINED.
I WANT TO BECOME A BRAHMARSHI^ LIKE VASISHTHA. I CANNOT BEAR TO REMEMBER THE WAY HE MADE ME POWERLESS.

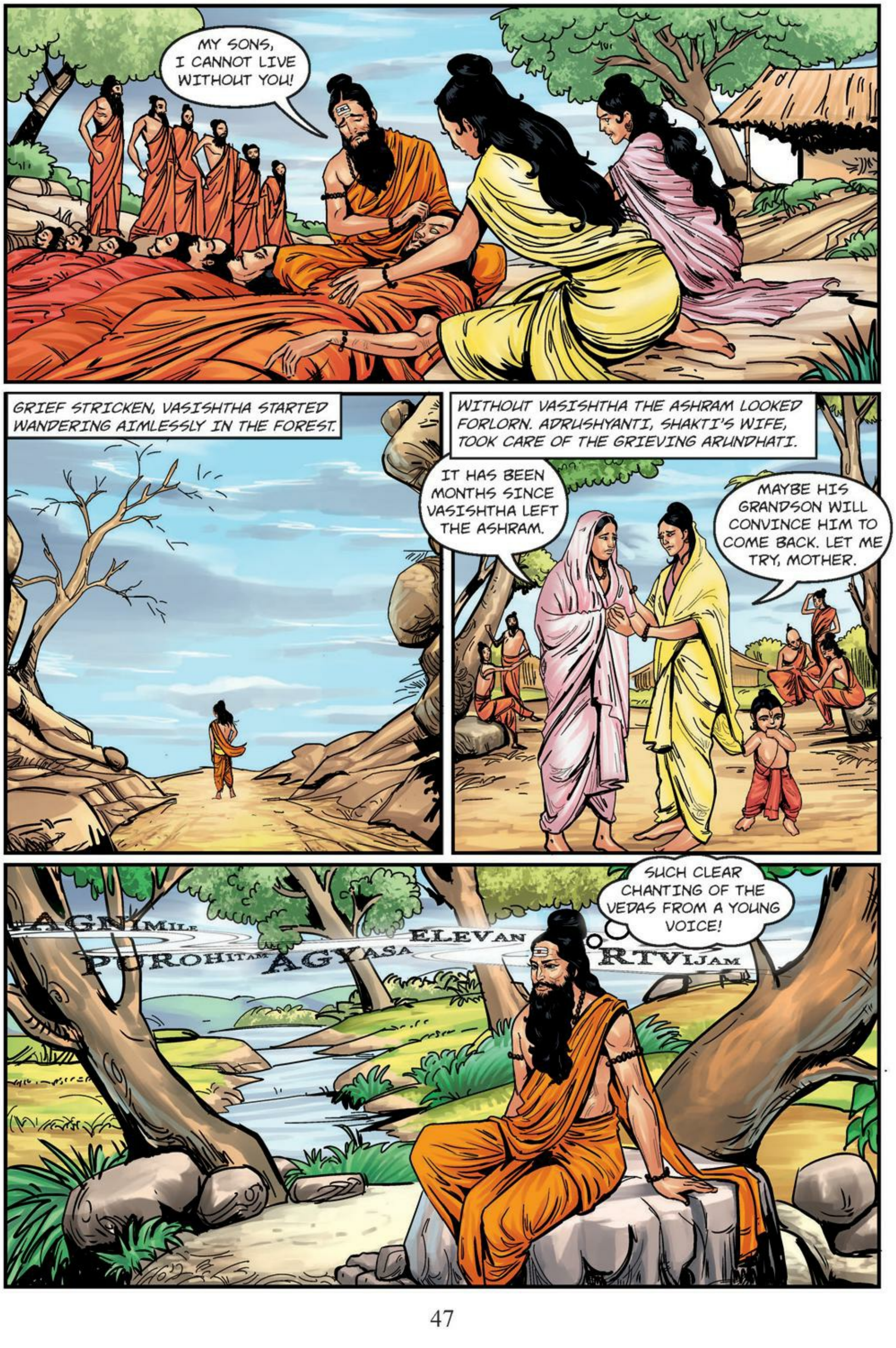
*A KING WHO RENOUNCES HIS THRONE TO BECOME A SAGE

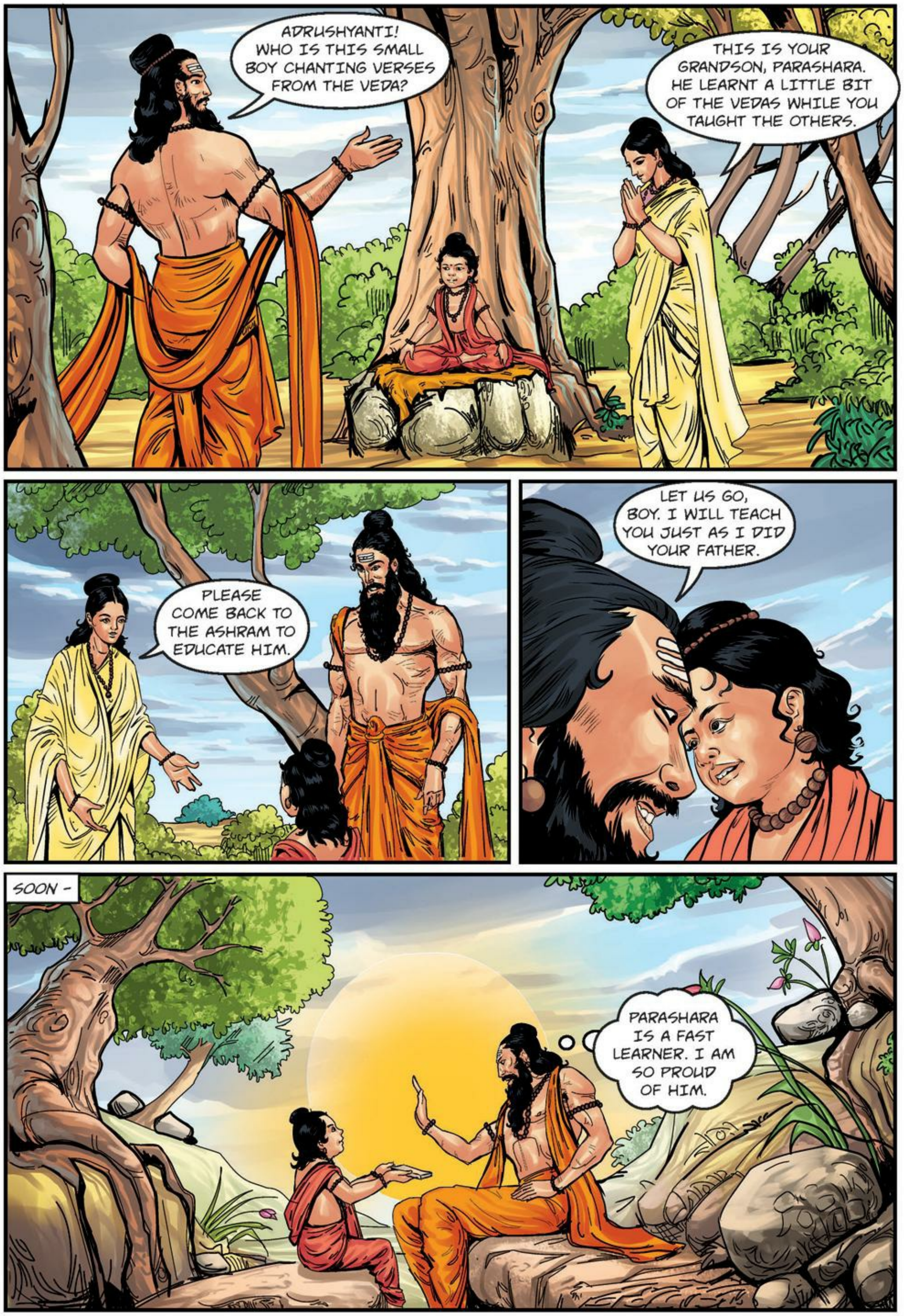
^THE HIGHEST STATUS A SAGE CAN ACHIEVE

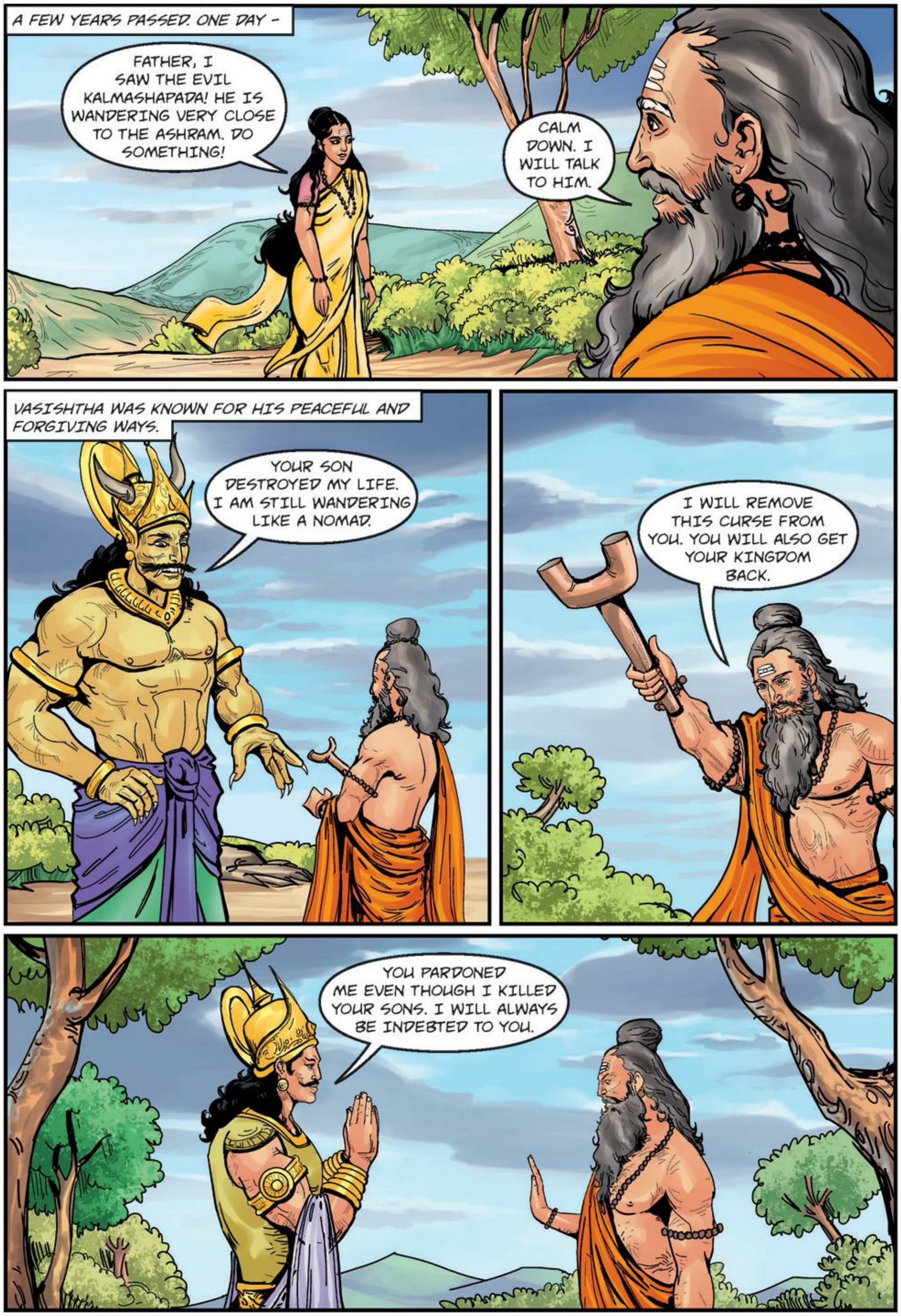

MEANWHILE, VASISHTHA AND ARUNDHATI HAD ONE HUNDRED SONS.
THE ELDEST OF THEM WAS SHAKTI.
ONE FATEFUL DAY, WHEN SHAKTI WAS WALKING ALONG A ROAD -
SAGES NEED TO BE GIVEN WAY. MOVE ASIDE.
I AM THE KING. YOU HAVE TO MAKE WAY FOR ME.
IT WAS KING KALMASHAPADA.
YOU ARROGANT KING, I CURSE YOU TO BECOME A DEMON FOR THIS MISBEHAVIOUR.
VISHWAMITRA HAPPENED TO WITNESS THIS SCENE.

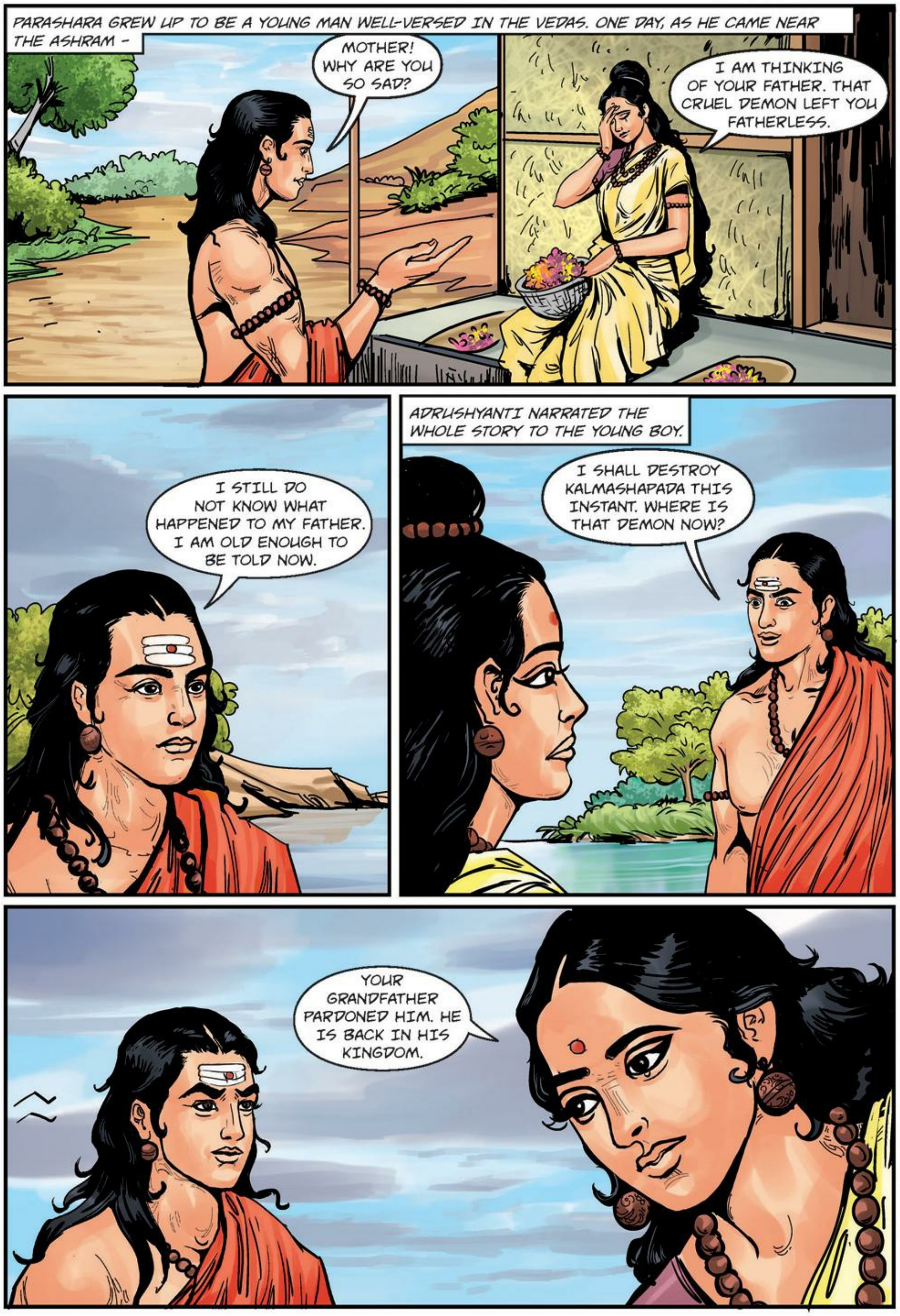

I WILL USE KALMASHAPADA TO TAKE REVENGE ON VASISHTHA.
HE APPROACHED THE KING.
SHAKTI WAS VERY CRUEL. YOU WILL NOT BE ABLE TO RULE NOW THAT YOU ARE TURNING INTO A DEMON.
YOU MUST KILL SHAKTI FOR RUINING YOUR LIFE.
YOU ARE RIGHT. I SHALL END SHAKTI'S LIFE TONIGHT.
YOU MUST KILL ALL HIS BROTHERS FIRST AND THEN KILL HIM. THAT WILL HURT HIM EVEN MORE.

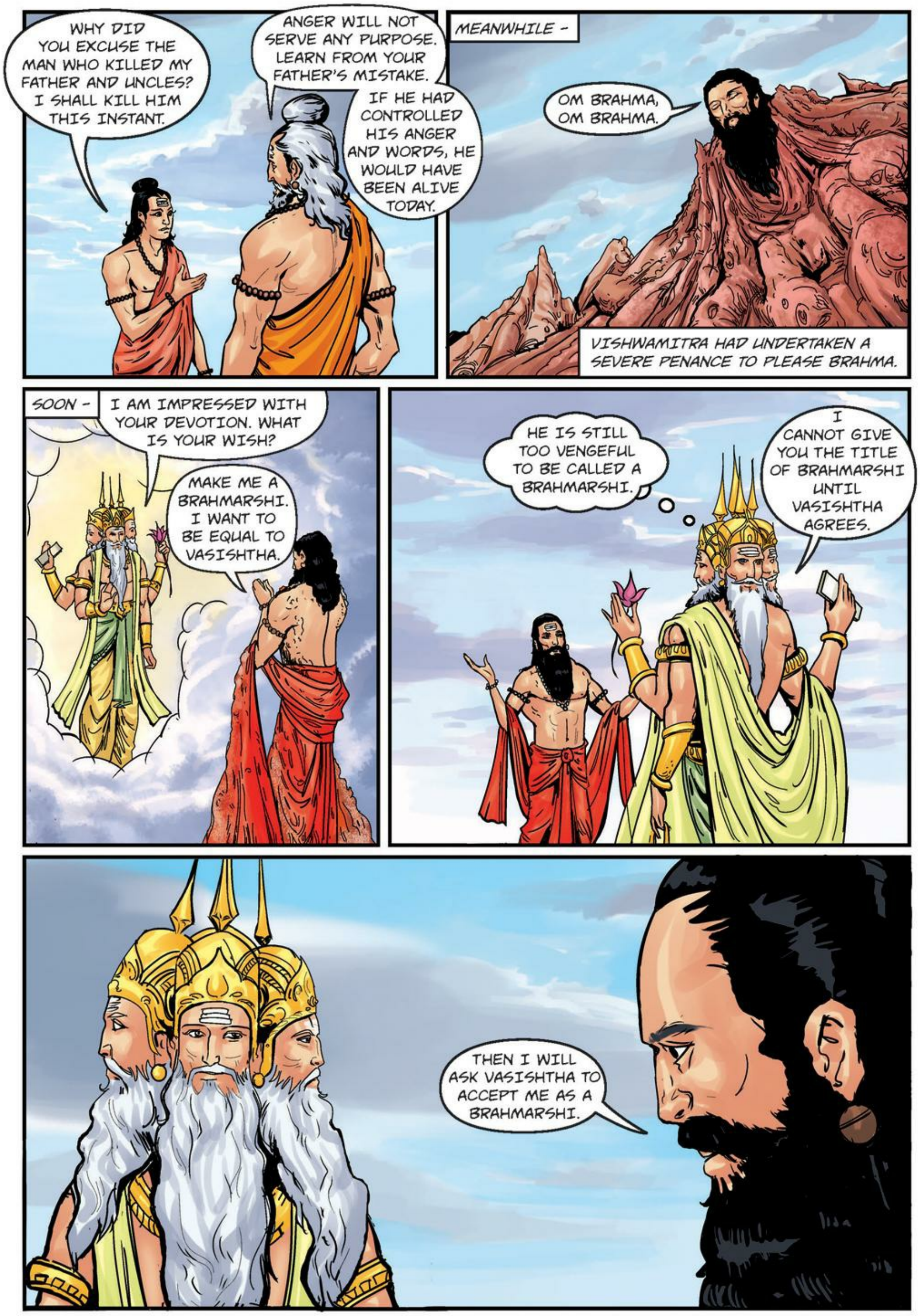

BUT ISN'T IT WRONG TO KILL INNOCENT PEOPLE?
YOU ARE A DEMON NOW. KILLING IS ALL RIGHT FOR DEMONS.
I MUST KILL SHAKTI FOR CHANGING ME INTO THIS MONSTER!
THAT NIGHT, KALMASHAPADA STEALTHILY ENTERED THE ASHRAM AND...
SHAKTI, I HOPE YOU SUFFER IN HELL FOREVER!
...KILLED ALL THE SONS OF VASISHTHA AND ARUNDHATI.

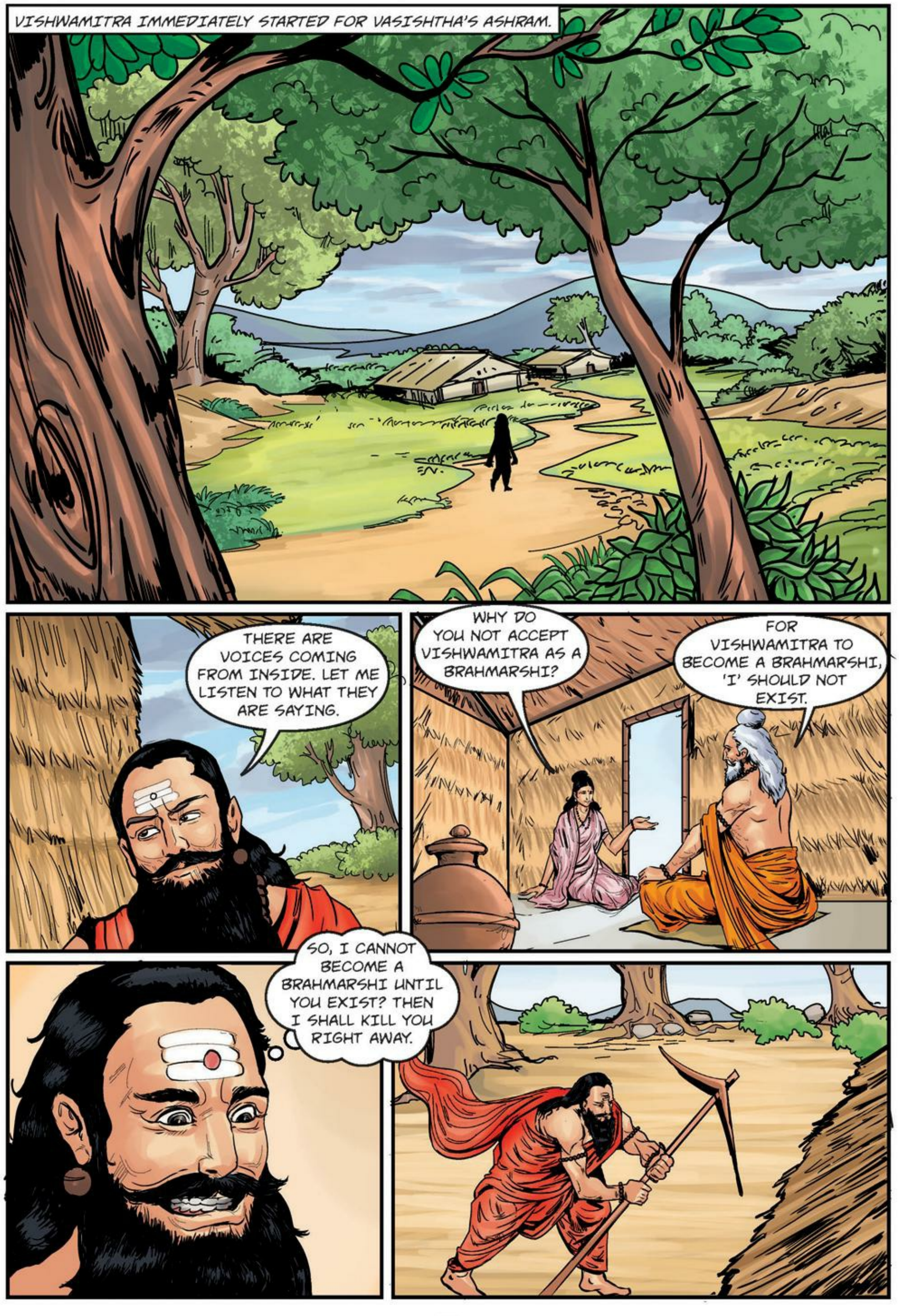

MY SONS, I CANNOT LIVE WITHOUT YOU!
GRIEF STRICKEN, VASISHTHA STARTED WANDERING AIMLESSLY IN THE FOREST.
WITHOUT VASISHTHA THE ASHRAM LOOKED FORLORN. ADRUSHYANTI, SHAKTI'S WIFE, TOOK CARE OF THE GRIEVING ARUNDHATI.
IT HAS BEEN MONTHS SINCE VASISHTHA LEFT THE ASHRAM.
MAYBE HIS GRANDSON WILL CONVINCE HIM TO COME BACK. LET ME TRY, MOTHER.
AGNIMILE
PUROHITAM
AGYASA
ELEVAN
RTVIJAM
SUCH CLEAR CHANTING OF THE VEDAS FROM A YOUNG VOICE!

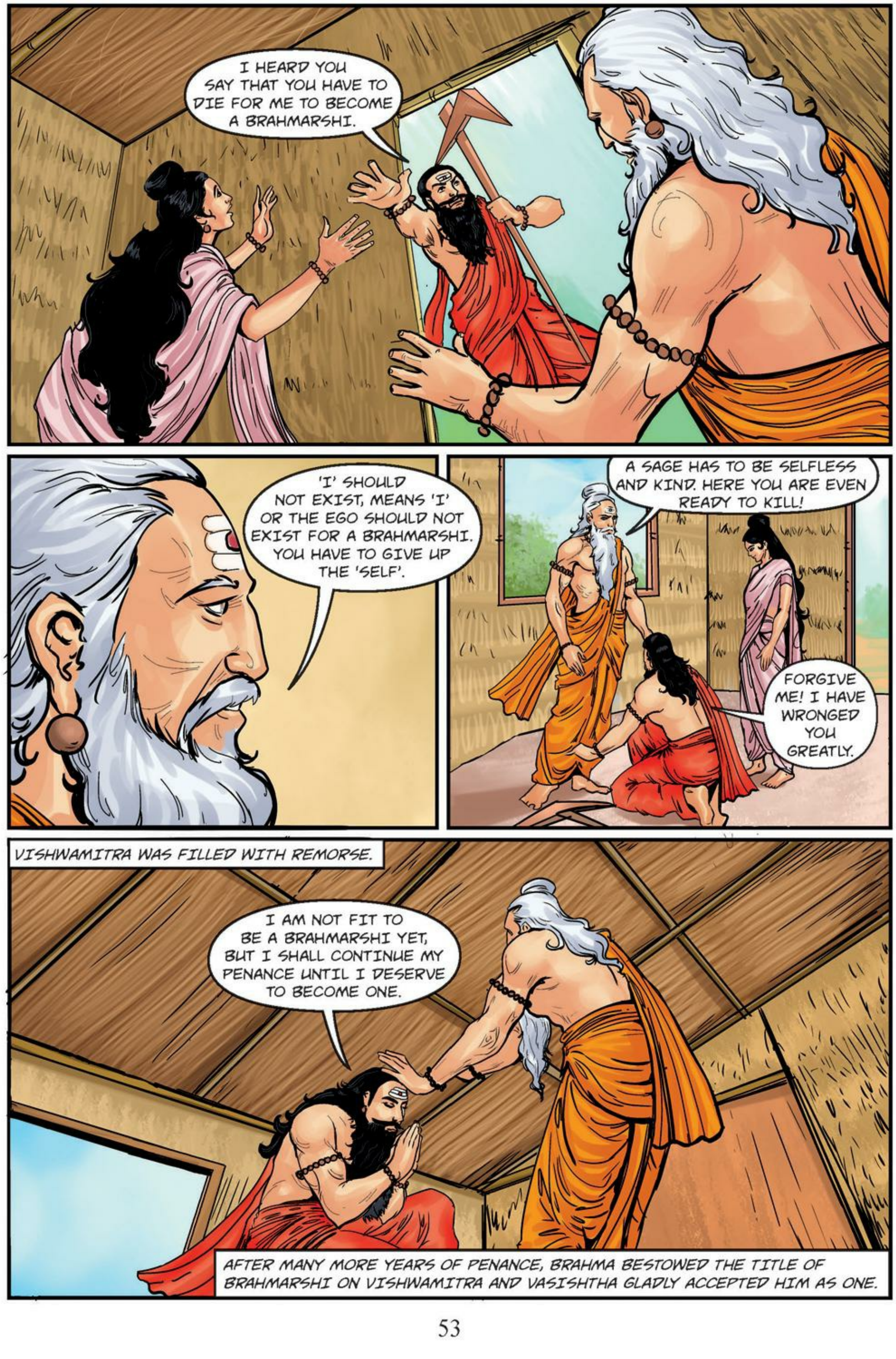

ADRUSHYANTI! WHO IS THIS SMALL BOY CHANTING VERSES FROM THE VEDA?
THIS IS YOUR GRANDSON, PARASHARA. HE LEARNT A LITTLE BIT OF THE VEDAS WHILE YOU TAUGHT THE OTHERS.
PLEASE COME BACK TO THE ASHRAM TO EDUCATE HIM.
LET US GO, BOY. I WILL TEACH YOU JUST AS I DID YOUR FATHER.
SOON –
PARASHARA IS A FAST LEARNER. I AM SO PROUD OF HIM.

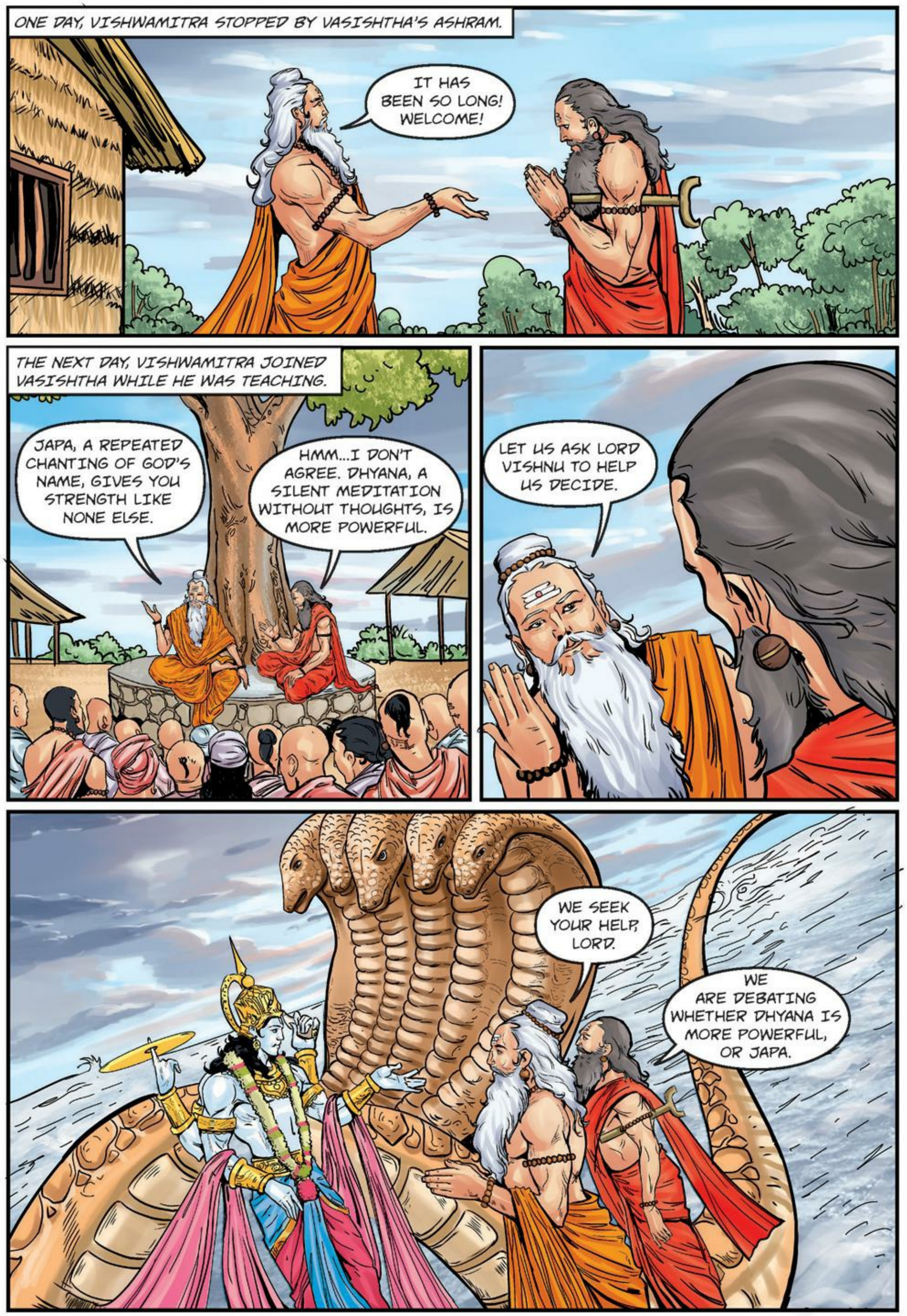

A FEW YEARS PASSED. ONE DAY -
FATHER, I SAW THE EVIL KALMASHAPADA! HE IS WANDERING VERY CLOSE TO THE ASHRAM. DO SOMETHING!
CALM DOWN. I WILL TALK TO HIM.
VASISHTHA WAS KNOWN FOR HIS PEACEFUL AND FORGIVING WAYS.
YOUR SON DESTROYED MY LIFE. I AM STILL WANDERING LIKE A NOMAD.
I WILL REMOVE THIS CURSE FROM YOU. YOU WILL ALSO GET YOUR KINGDOM BACK.
YOU PARDONED ME EVEN THOUGH I KILLED YOUR SONS. I WILL ALWAYS BE INDEBTED TO YOU.

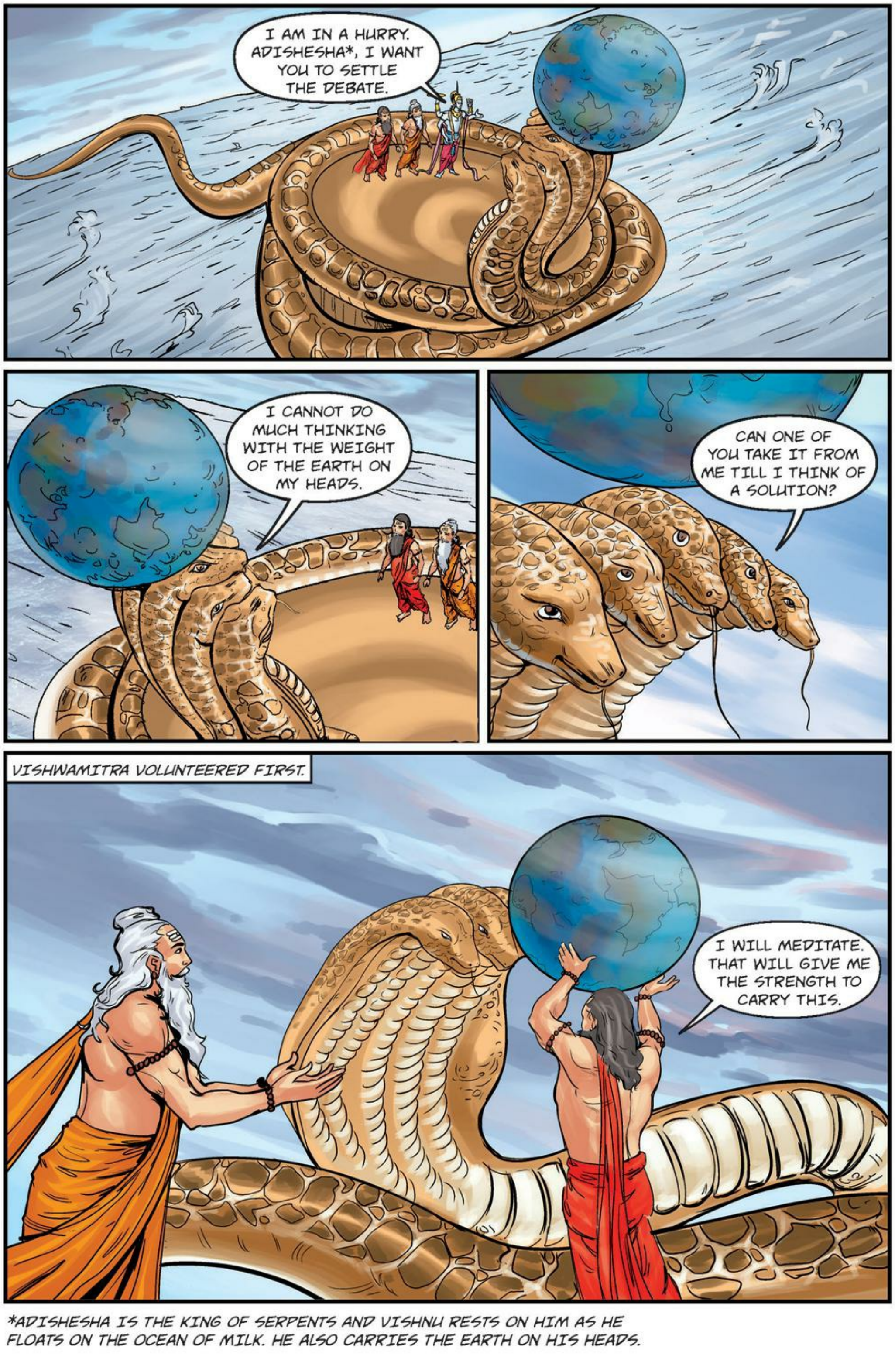

PARASHARA GREW UP TO BE A YOUNG MAN WELL-VERSED IN THE VEDAS. ONE DAY, AS HE CAME NEAR THE ASHRAM –
MOTHER! WHY ARE YOU SO SAD?
I AM THINKING OF YOUR FATHER. THAT CRUEL DEMON LEFT YOU FATHERLESS.
I STILL DO NOT KNOW WHAT HAPPENED TO MY FATHER. I AM OLD ENOUGH TO BE TOLD NOW.
ADRUSHYANTI NARRATED THE WHOLE STORY TO THE YOUNG BOY.
I SHALL DESTROY KALMASHAPADA THIS INSTANT. WHERE IS THAT DEMON NOW?
YOUR GRANDFATHER PARDONED HIM. HE IS BACK IN HIS KINGDOM.


WHY DID YOU EXCUSE THE MAN WHO KILLED MY FATHER AND UNCLES? I SHALL KILL HIM THIS INSTANT.
ANGER WILL NOT SERVE ANY PURPOSE. LEARN FROM YOUR FATHER'S MISTAKE.
IF HE HAD CONTROLLED HIS ANGER AND WORDS, HE WOULD HAVE BEEN ALIVE TODAY.
MEANWHILE –
OM BRAHMA, OM BRAHMA.
VISHWAMITRA HAD UNDERTAKEN A SEVERE PENANCE TO PLEASE BRAHMA.
SOON –
I AM IMPRESSED WITH YOUR DEVOTION. WHAT IS YOUR WISH?
MAKE ME A BRAHMARSHI. I WANT TO BE EQUAL TO VASISHTHA.
HE IS STILL TOO VENGEFUL TO BE CALLED A BRAHMARSHI.
I CANNOT GIVE YOU THE TITLE OF BRAHMARSHI UNTIL VASISHTHA AGREES.
THEN I WILL ASK VASISHTHA TO ACCEPT ME AS A BRAHMARSHI.

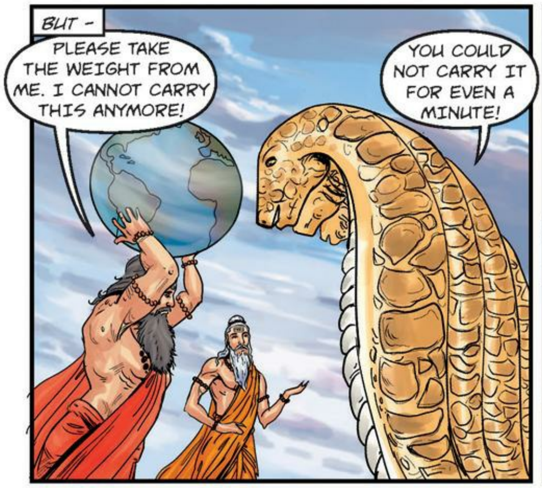

VISHWAMITRA IMMEDIATELY STARTED FOR VASISHTHA'S ASHRAM.
THERE ARE VOICES COMING FROM INSIDE. LET ME LISTEN TO WHAT THEY ARE SAYING.
WHY DO YOU NOT ACCEPT VISHWAMITRA AS A BRAHMARSHI?
FOR VISHWAMITRA TO BECOME A BRAHMARSHI, 'I' SHOULD NOT EXIST.
SO, I CANNOT BECOME A BRAHMARSHI UNTIL YOU EXIST? THEN I SHALL KILL YOU RIGHT AWAY.

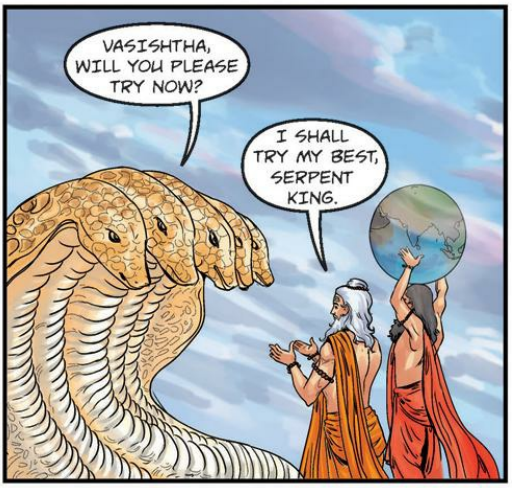

I HEARD YOU SAY THAT YOU HAVE TO DIE FOR ME TO BECOME A BRAHMARSHI.
'I' SHOULD NOT EXIST, MEANS 'I' OR THE EGO SHOULD NOT EXIST FOR A BRAHMARSHI. YOU HAVE TO GIVE UP THE 'SELF'.
A SAGE HAS TO BE SELFLESS AND KIND. HERE YOU ARE EVEN READY TO KILL!
FORGIVE ME! I HAVE WRONGED YOU GREATLY.
VISHWAMITRA WAS FILLED WITH REMORSE.
I AM NOT FIT TO BE A BRAHMARSHI YET, BUT I SHALL CONTINUE MY PENANCE UNTIL I DESERVE TO BECOME ONE.
AFTER MANY MORE YEARS OF PENANCE, BRAHMA BESTOWED THE TITLE OF BRAHMARSHI ON VISHWAMITRA AND VASISHTHA GLADLY ACCEPTED HIM AS ONE.

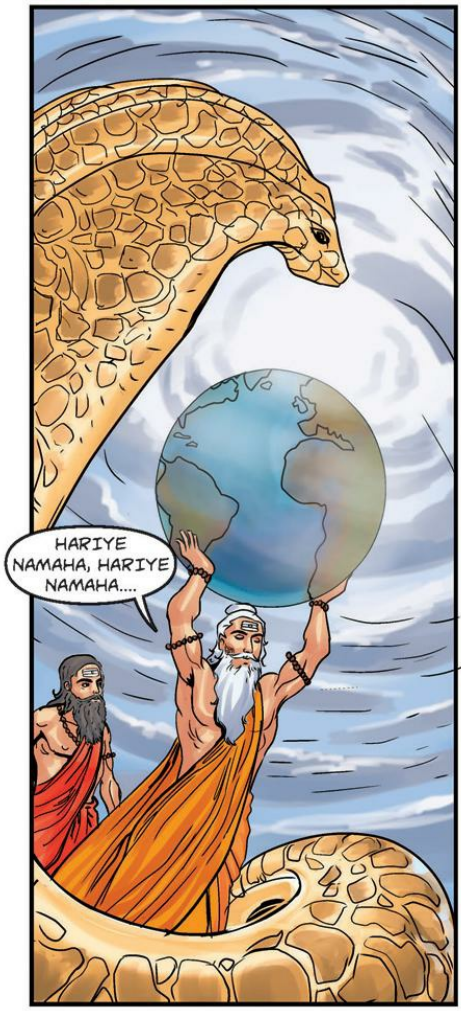

ONE DAY, VISHWAMITRA STOPPED BY VASISHTHA'S ASHRAM.
IT HAS BEEN SO LONG! WELCOME!
THE NEXT DAY, VISHWAMITRA JOINED VASISHTHA WHILE HE WAS TEACHING.
JAPA, A REPEATED CHANTING OF GOD'S NAME, GIVES YOU STRENGTH LIKE NONE ELSE.
HMM...I DON'T AGREE. DHYANA, A SILENT MEDITATION WITHOUT THOUGHTS, IS MORE POWERFUL.
LET US ASK LORD VISHNU TO HELP US DECIDE.
WE SEEK YOUR HELP, LORD.
WE ARE DEBATING WHETHER DHYANA IS MORE POWERFUL, OR JAPA.

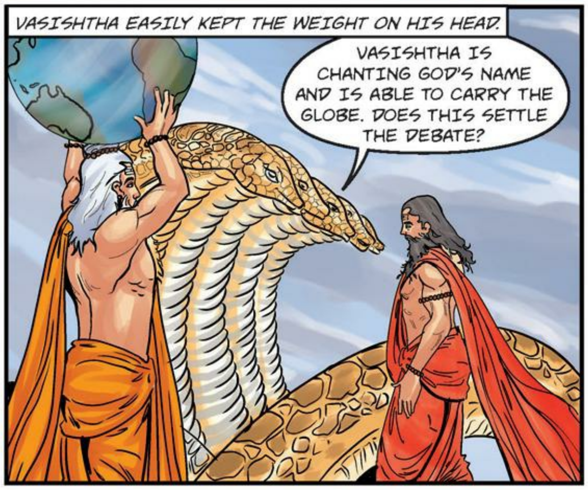

I AM IN A HURRY. ADISHESHA*, I WANT YOU TO SETTLE THE DEBATE.
I CANNOT DO MUCH THINKING WITH THE WEIGHT OF THE EARTH ON MY HEADS.
CAN ONE OF YOU TAKE IT FROM ME TILL I THINK OF A SOLUTION?
VISHWAMITRA VOLUNTEERED FIRST.
I WILL MEDITATE. THAT WILL GIVE ME THE STRENGTH TO CARRY THIS.

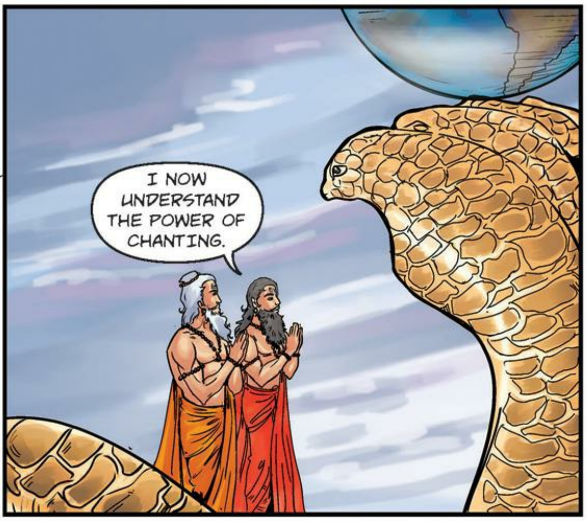
*ADISHESHA IS THE KING OF SERPENTS AND VISHNU RESTS ON HIM AS HE FLOATS ON THE OCEAN OF MILK. HE ALSO CARRIES THE EARTH ON HIS HEADS.

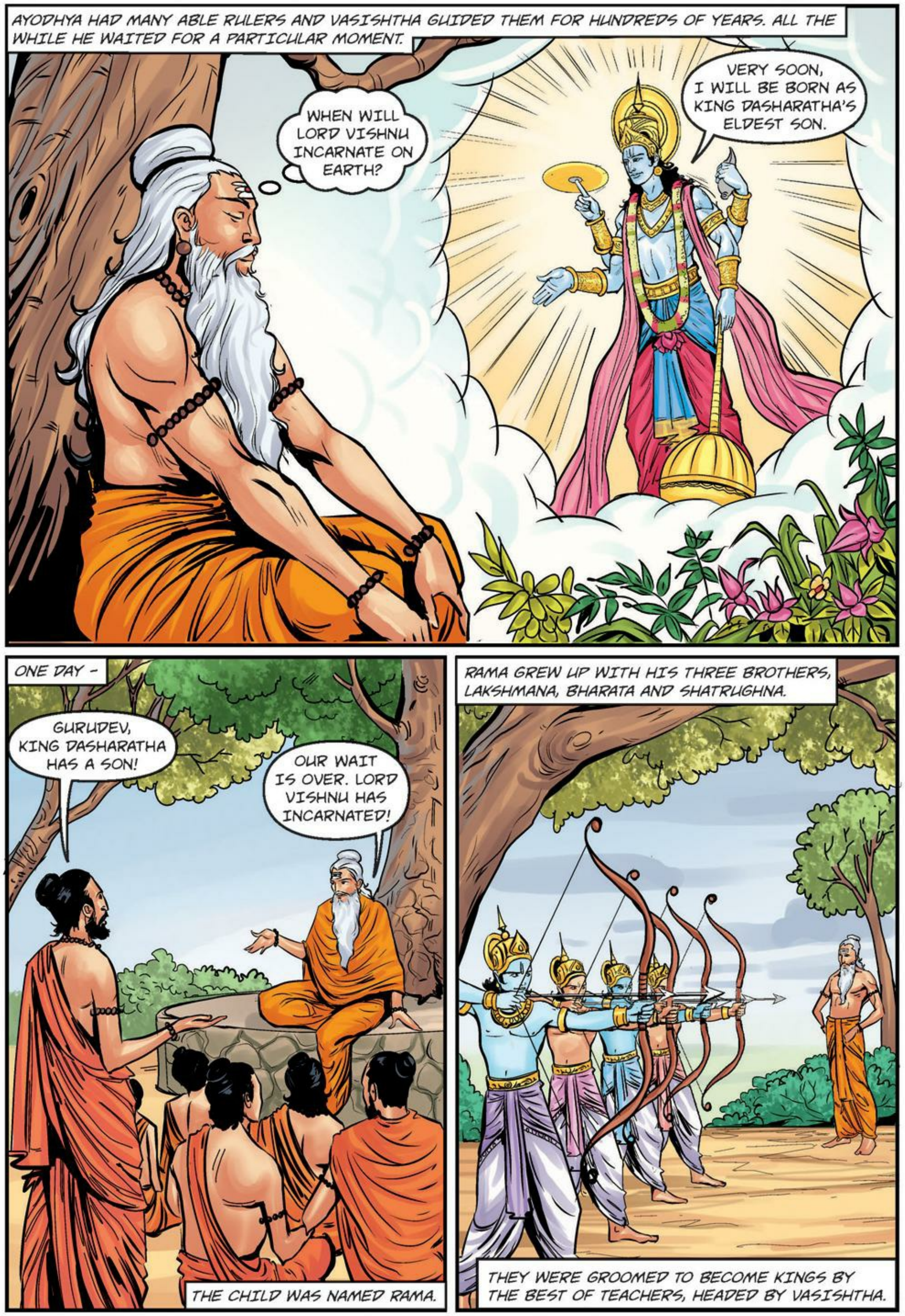

BUT -
PLEASE TAKE THE WEIGHT FROM ME. I CANNOT CARRY THIS ANYMORE!
YOU COULD NOT CARRY IT FOR EVEN A MINUTE!

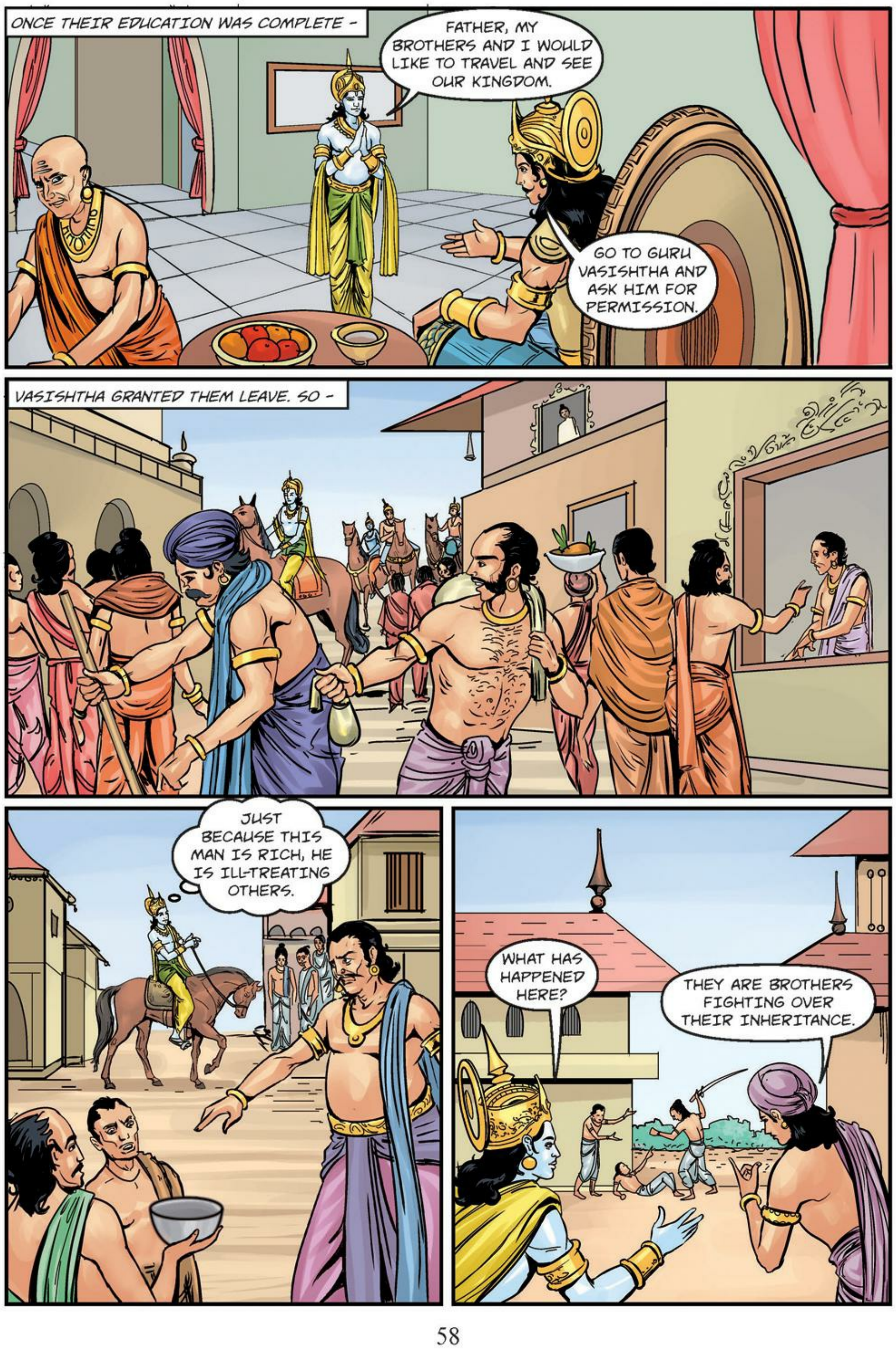

VASISHTHA, WILL YOU PLEASE TRY NOW?
I SHALL TRY MY BEST, SERPENT KING.

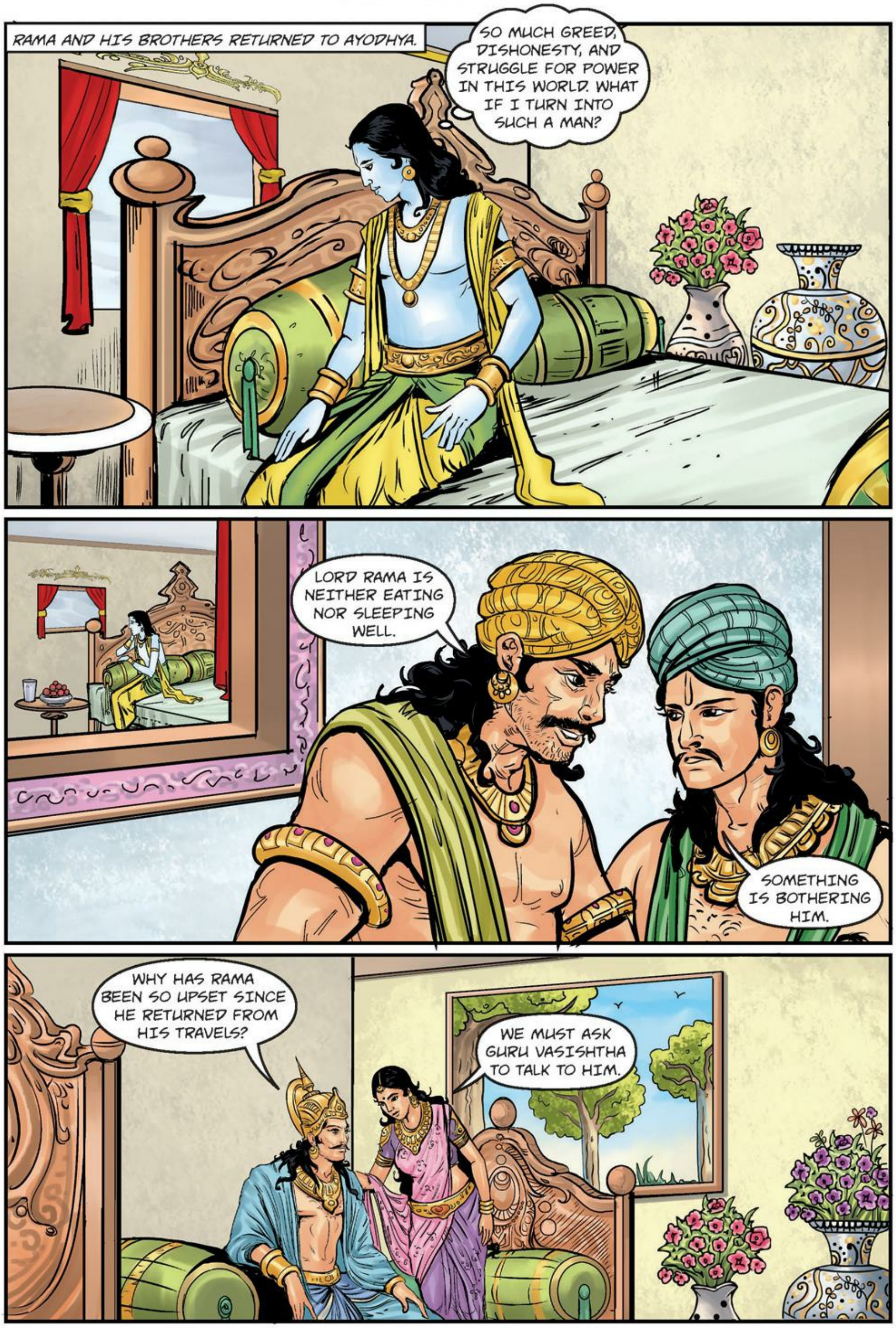

HARIYE NAMAHA, HARIYE NAMAHA....

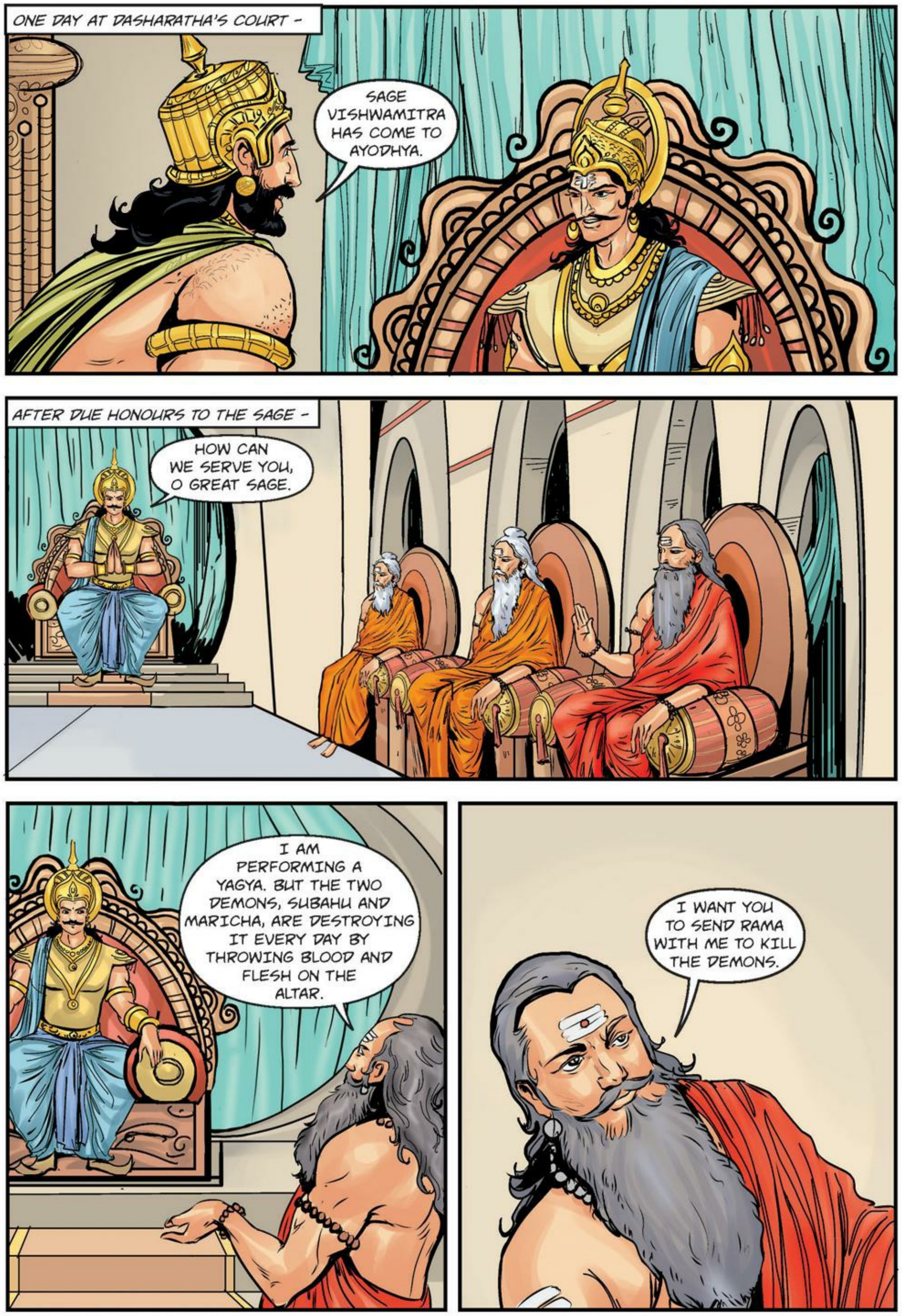

VASISHTHA EASILY KEPT THE WEIGHT ON HIS HEAD.
VASISHTHA IS CHANTING GOD'S NAME AND IS ABLE TO CARRY THE GLOBE. DOES THIS SETTLE THE DEBATE?

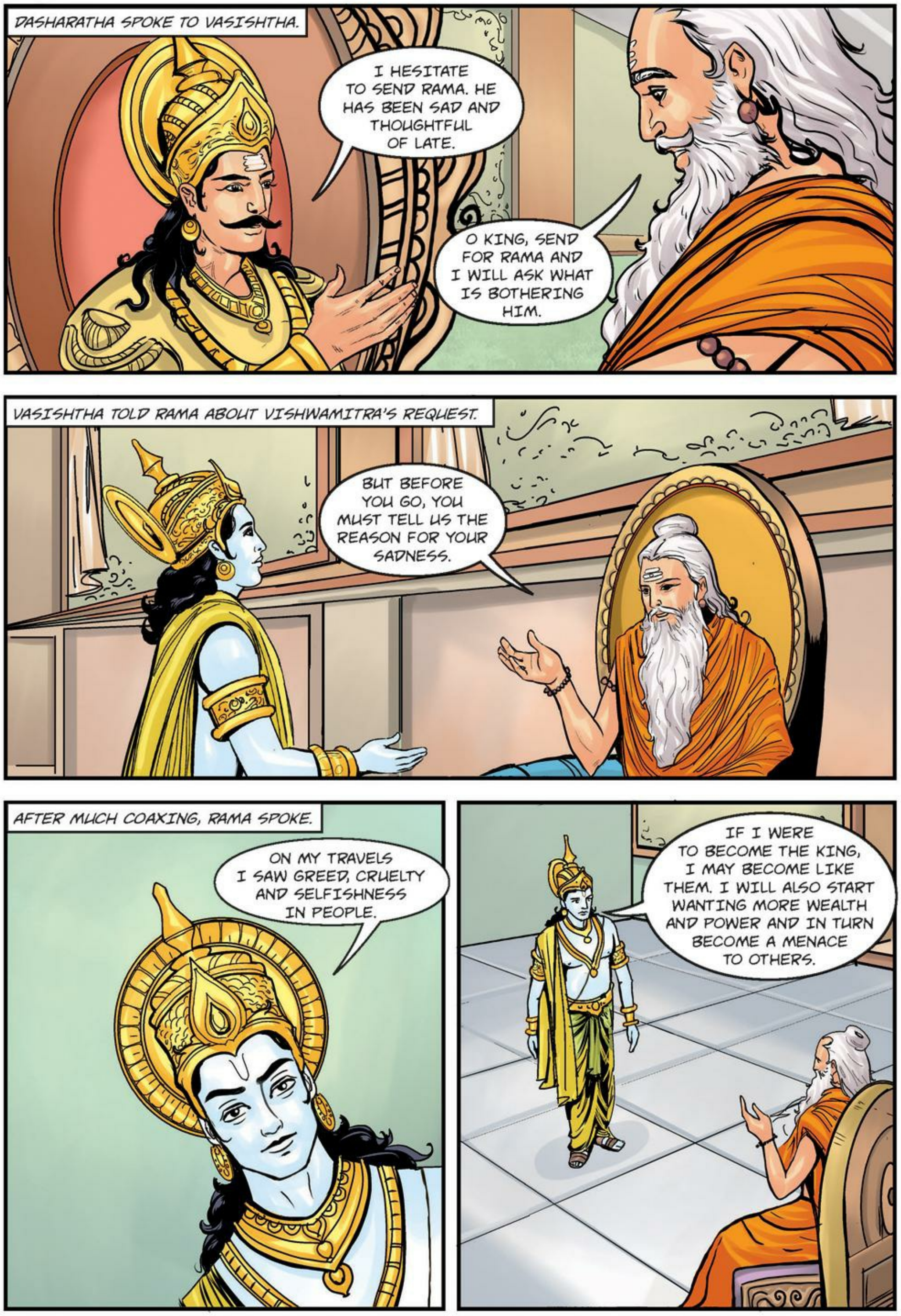

I NOW UNDERSTAND THE POWER OF CHANTING.

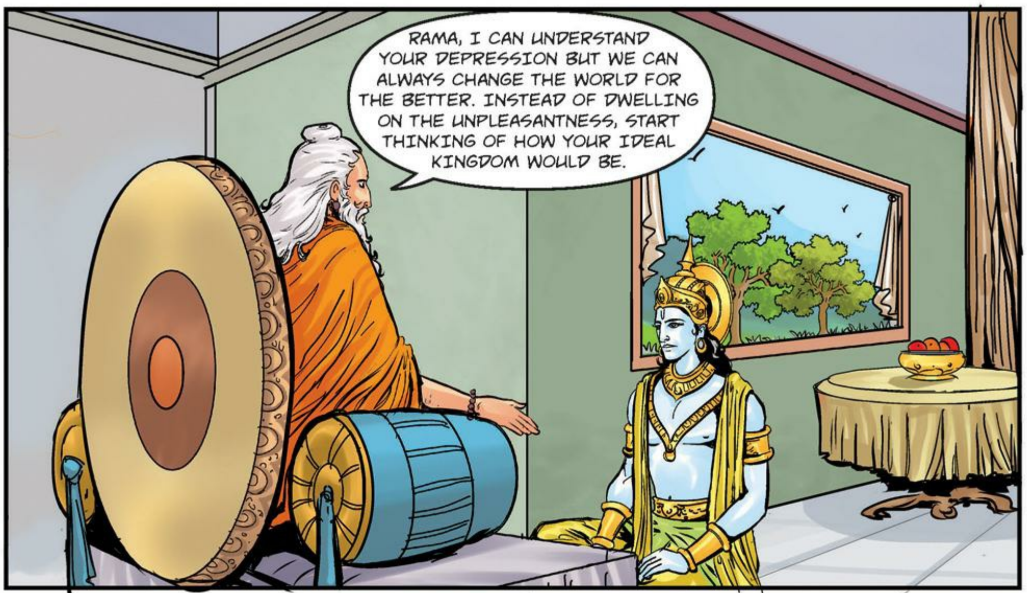

AYODHYA HAD MANY ABLE RULERS AND VASISHTHA GUIDED THEM FOR HUNDREDS OF YEARS. ALL THE WHILE HE WAITED FOR A PARTICULAR MOMENT.
WHEN WILL LORD VISHNU INCARNATE ON EARTH?
VERY SOON, I WILL BE BORN AS KING DASHARATHA'S ELDEST SON.
ONE DAY -
GURUDEV, KING DASHARATHA HAS A SON!
OUR WAIT IS OVER. LORD VISHNU HAS INCARNATED!
THE CHILD WAS NAMED RAMA.
RAMA GREW UP WITH HIS THREE BROTHERS, LAKSHMANA, BHARATA AND SHATRUGHNA.
THEY WERE GROOMED TO BECOME KINGS BY THE BEST OF TEACHERS, HEADED BY VASISHTHA.

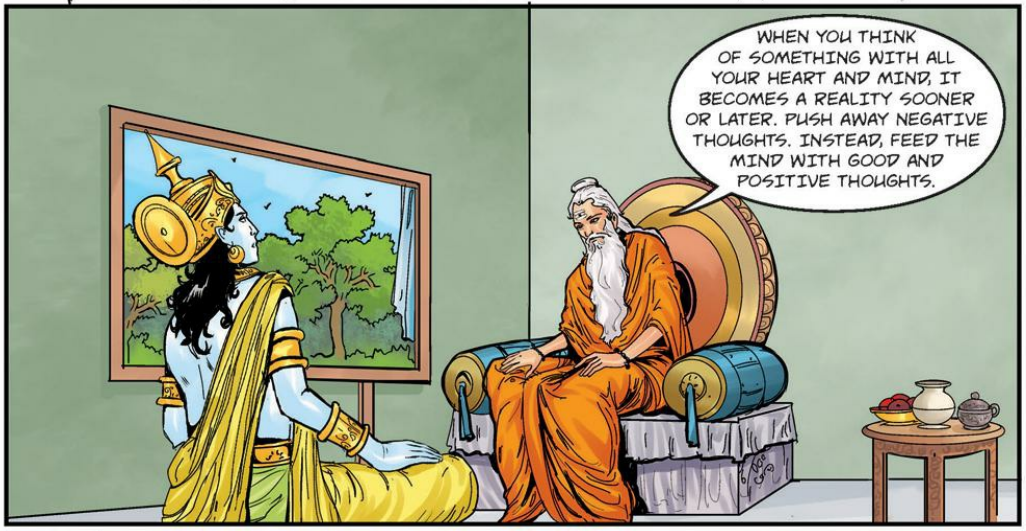

ONCE THEIR EDUCATION WAS COMPLETE -
FATHER, MY BROTHERS AND I WOULD LIKE TO TRAVEL AND SEE OUR KINGDOM.
GO TO GURU VASISHTHA AND ASK HIM FOR PERMISSION.
VASISHTHA GRANTED THEM LEAVE. SO -
JUST BECAUSE THIS MAN IS RICH, HE IS ILL-TREATING OTHERS.
WHAT HAS HAPPENED HERE?
THEY ARE BROTHERS FIGHTING OVER THEIR INHERITANCE.

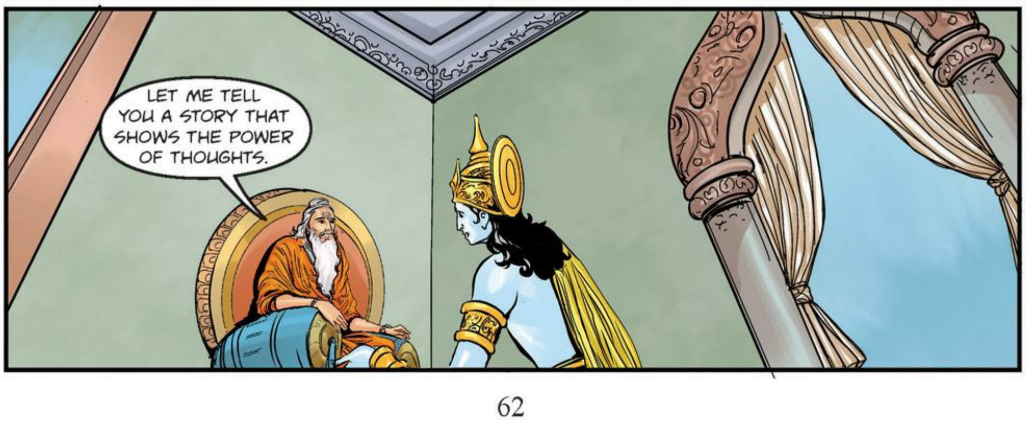

RAMA AND HIS BROTHERS RETURNED TO AYODHYA.
SO MUCH GREED, DISHONESTY, AND STRUGGLE FOR POWER IN THIS WORLD. WHAT IF I TURN INTO SUCH A MAN?
LORD RAMA IS NEITHER EATING NOR SLEEPING WELL.
SOMETHING IS BOTHERING HIM.
WHY HAS RAMA BEEN SO UPSET SINCE HE RETURNED FROM HIS TRAVELS?
WE MUST ASK GURU VASISHTHA TO TALK TO HIM.

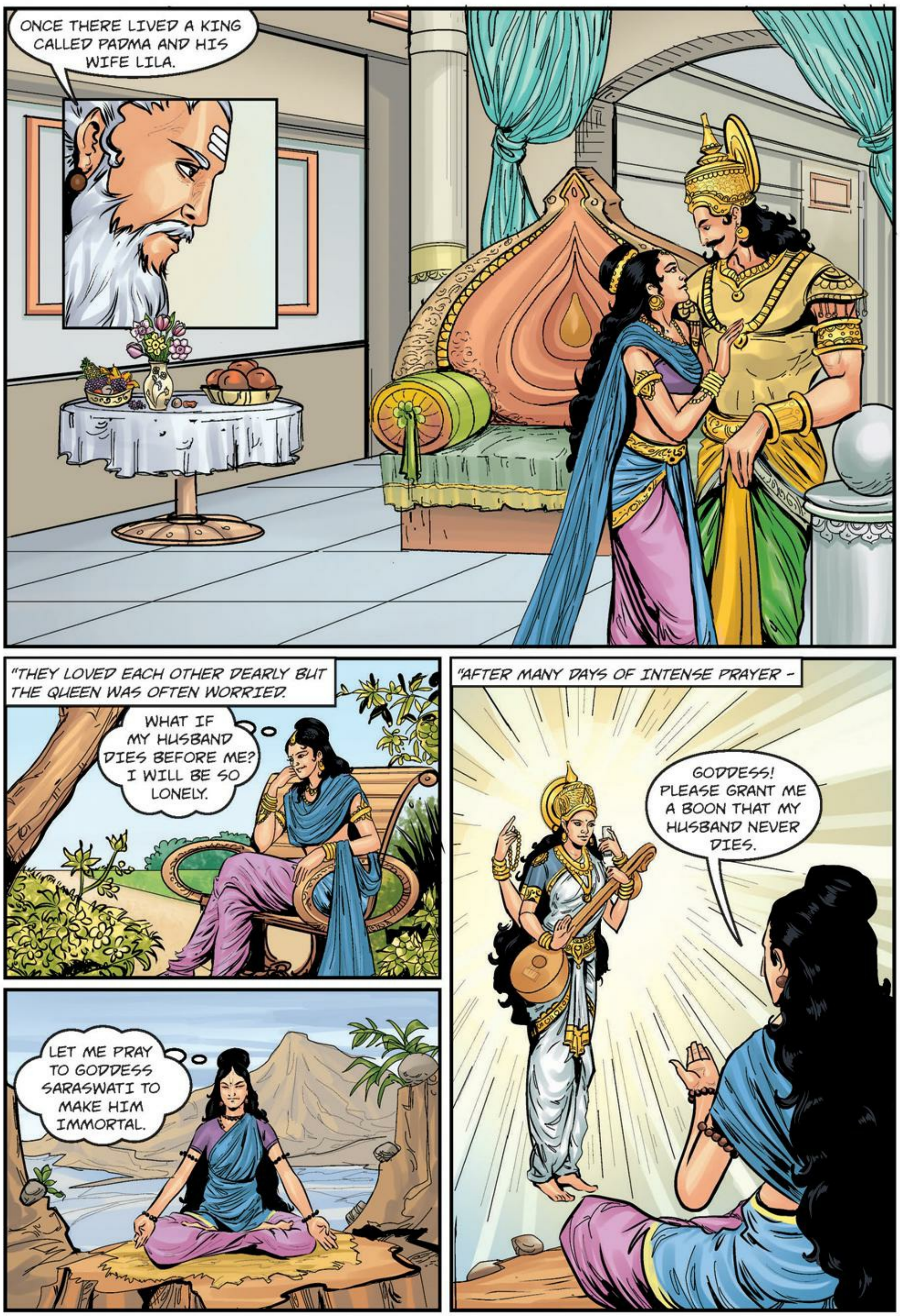

ONE DAY AT DASHARATHA'S COURT -
SAGE VISHWAMITRA HAS COME TO AYODHYA.
AFTER DUE HONOURS TO THE SAGE -
HOW CAN WE SERVE YOU, O GREAT SAGE.
I AM PERFORMING A YAGYA. BUT THE TWO DEMONS, SUBAHU AND MARICHA, ARE DESTROYING IT EVERY DAY BY THROWING BLOOD AND FLESH ON THE ALTAR.
I WANT YOU TO SEND RAMA WITH ME TO KILL THE DEMONS.

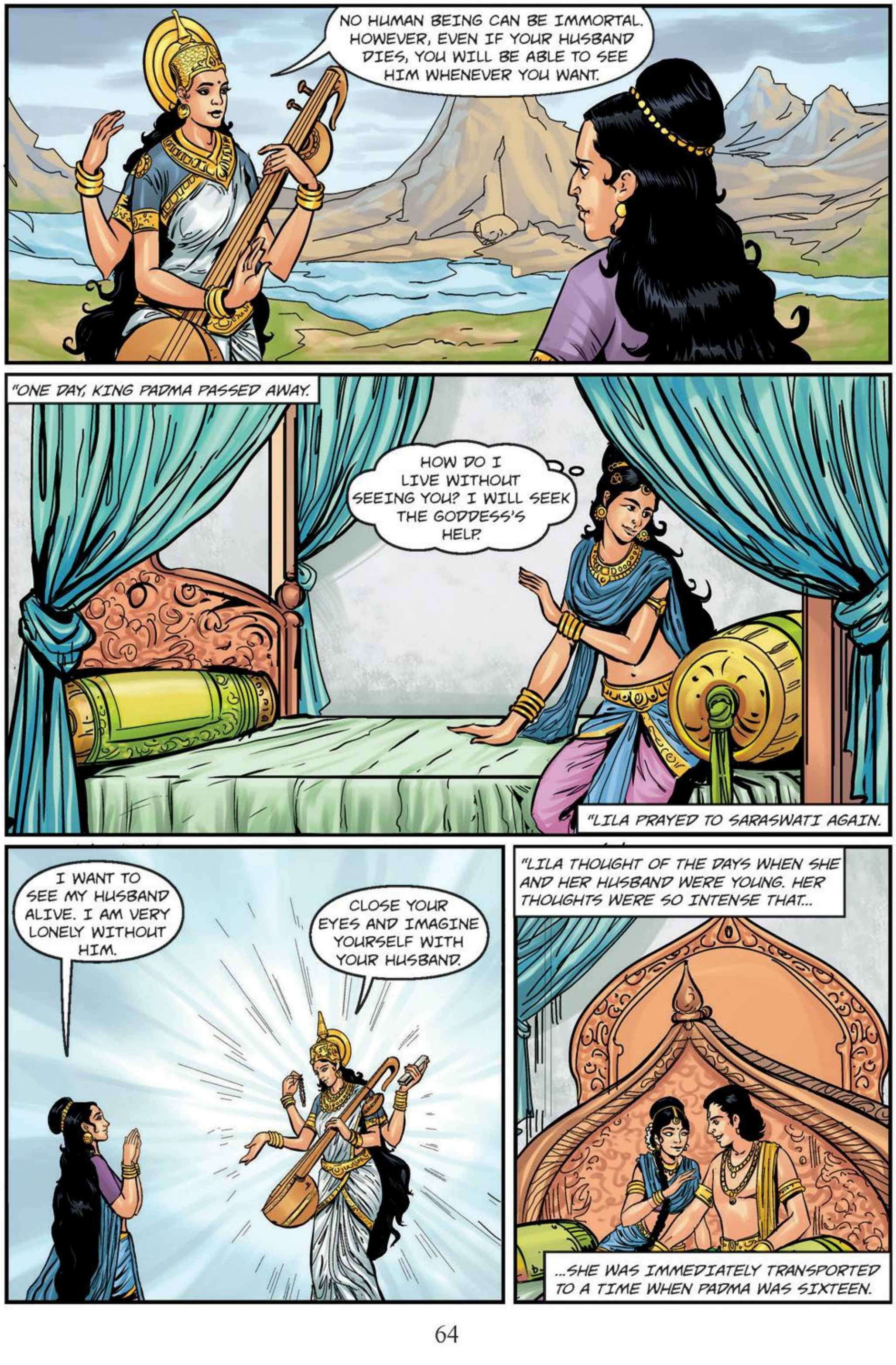

DASHARATHA SPOKE TO VASISHTHA.
I HESITATE TO SEND RAMA. HE HAS BEEN SAD AND THOUGHTFUL OF LATE.
O KING, SEND FOR RAMA AND I WILL ASK WHAT IS BOTHERING HIM.
VASISHTHA TOLD RAMA ABOUT VISHWAMITRA'S REQUEST.
BUT BEFORE YOU GO, YOU MUST TELL US THE REASON FOR YOUR SADNESS.
AFTER MUCH COAXING, RAMA SPOKE.
ON MY TRAVELS I SAW GREED, CRUELTY AND SELFISHNESS IN PEOPLE.
IF I WERE TO BECOME THE KING, I MAY BECOME LIKE THEM. I WILL ALSO START WANTING MORE WEALTH AND POWER AND IN TURN BECOME A MENACE TO OTHERS.

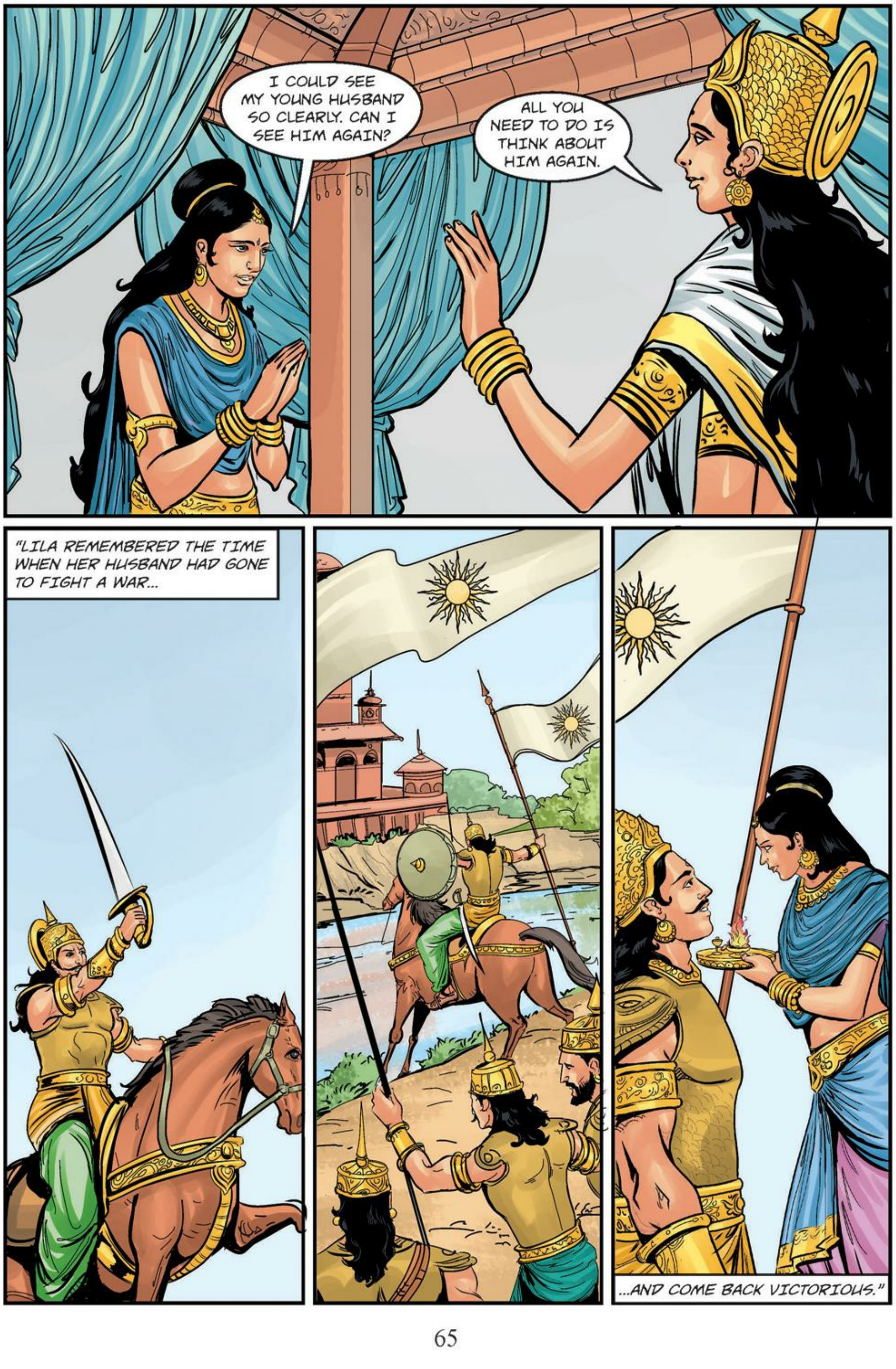

RAMA, I CAN UNDERSTAND YOUR DEPRESSION BUT WE CAN ALWAYS CHANGE THE WORLD FOR THE BETTER. INSTEAD OF DWELLING ON THE UNPLEASANTNESS, START THINKING OF HOW YOUR IDEAL KINGDOM WOULD BE.

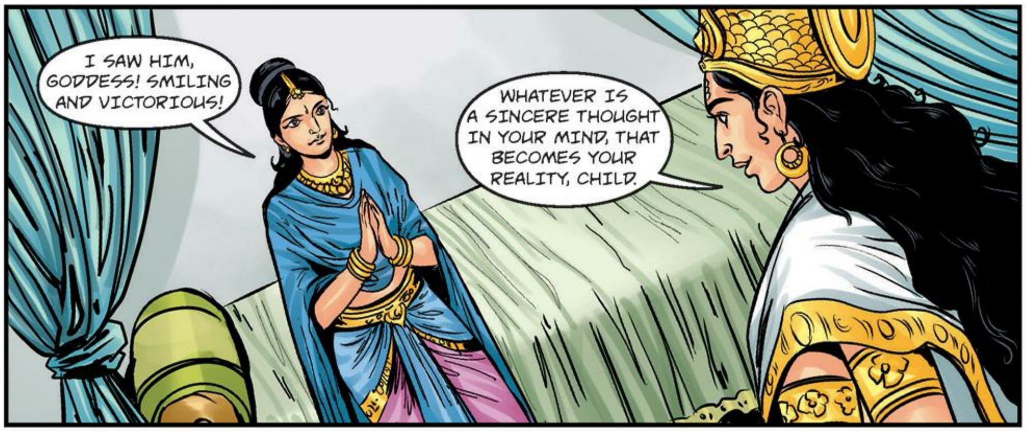

WHEN YOU THINK OF SOMETHING WITH ALL YOUR HEART AND MIND, IT BECOMES A REALITY SOONER OR LATER. PUSH AWAY NEGATIVE THOUGHTS. INSTEAD, FEED THE MIND WITH GOOD AND POSITIVE THOUGHTS.

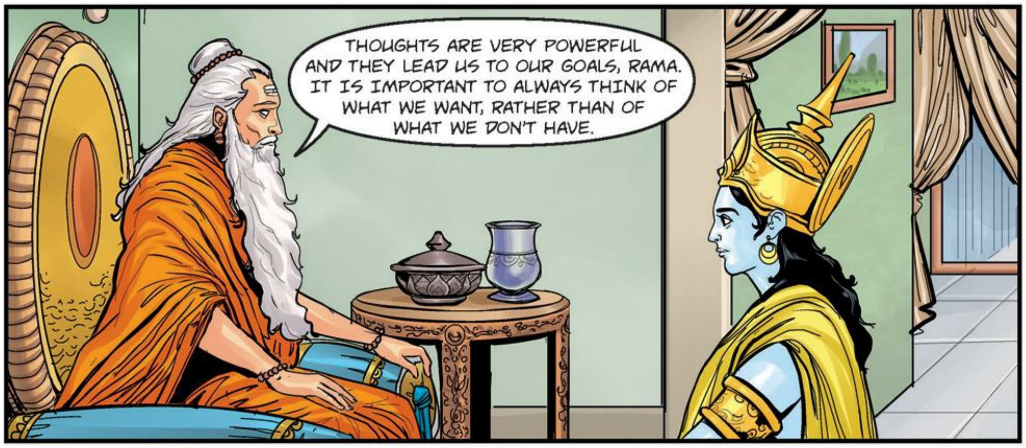

LET ME TELL YOU A STORY THAT SHOWS THE POWER OF THOUGHTS.

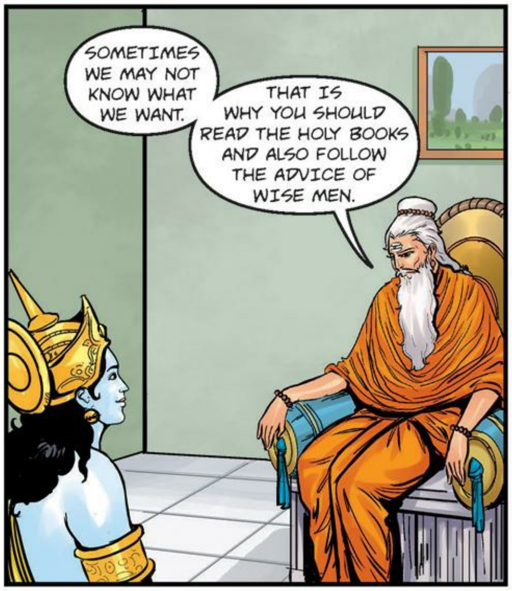

ONCE THERE LIVED A KING CALLED PADMA AND HIS WIFE LILA.
"THEY LOVED EACH OTHER DEARLY BUT THE QUEEN WAS OFTEN WORRIED.
WHAT IF MY HUSBAND DIES BEFORE ME? I WILL BE SO LONELY.
LET ME PRAY TO GODDESS SARASWATI TO MAKE HIM IMMORTAL.
"AFTER MANY DAYS OF INTENSE PRAYER -
GODDESS! PLEASE GRANT ME A BOON THAT MY HUSBAND NEVER DIES.

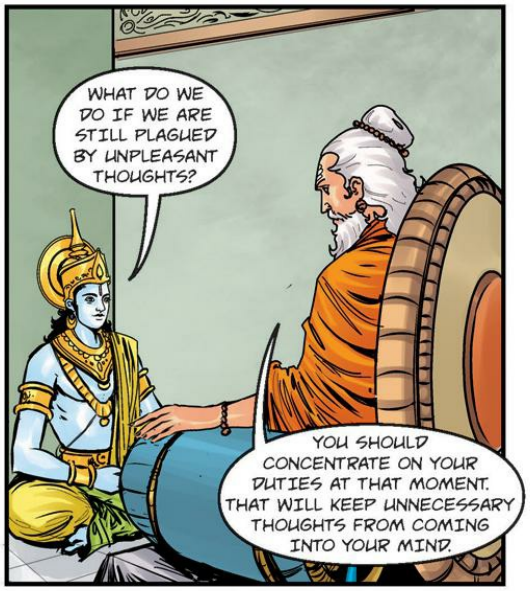

NO HUMAN BEING CAN BE IMMORTAL. HOWEVER, EVEN IF YOUR HUSBAND DIES, YOU WILL BE ABLE TO SEE HIM WHENEVER YOU WANT.
"ONE DAY, KING PADMA PASSED AWAY.
HOW DO I LIVE WITHOUT SEEING YOU? I WILL SEEK THE GODDESS'S HELP.
"LILA PRAYED TO SARASWATI AGAIN.
I WANT TO SEE MY HUSBAND ALIVE. I AM VERY LONELY WITHOUT HIM.
CLOSE YOUR EYES AND IMAGINE YOURSELF WITH YOUR HUSBAND.
"LILA THOUGHT OF THE DAYS WHEN SHE AND HER HUSBAND WERE YOUNG. HER THOUGHTS WERE SO INTENSE THAT...
...SHE WAS IMMEDIATELY TRANSPORTED TO A TIME WHEN PADMA WAS SIXTEEN.

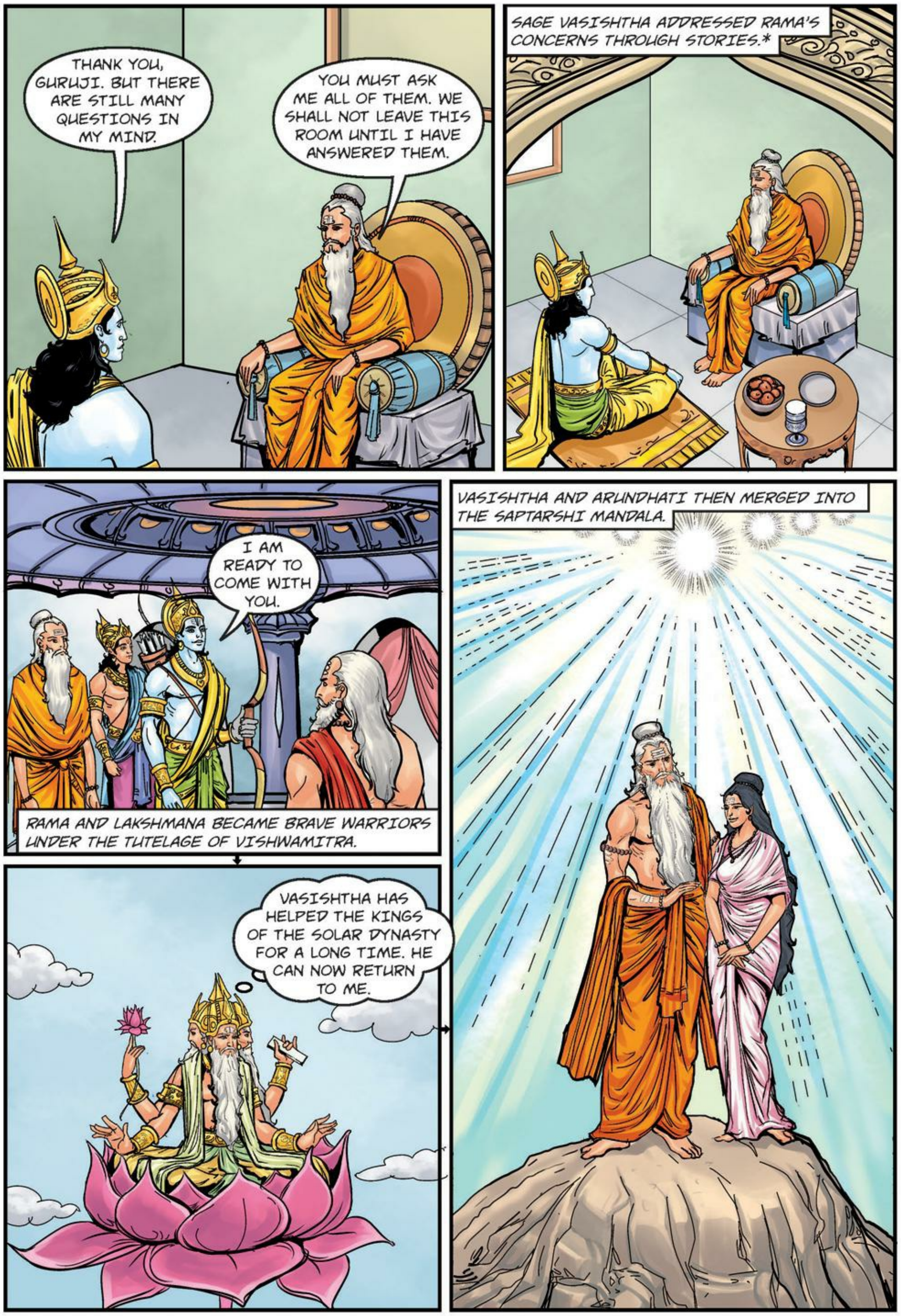

I COULD SEE MY YOUNG HUSBAND SO CLEARLY. CAN I SEE HIM AGAIN?
ALL YOU NEED TO DO IS THINK ABOUT HIM AGAIN.
"LILA REMEMBERED THE TIME WHEN HER HUSBAND HAD GONE TO FIGHT A WAR...
...AND COME BACK VICTORIOUS."


I SAW HIM, GODDESS! SMILING AND VICTORIOUS!
WHATEVER IS A SINCERE THOUGHT IN YOUR MIND, THAT BECOMES YOUR REALITY, CHILD.


THOUGHTS ARE VERY POWERFUL AND THEY LEAD US TO OUR GOALS, RAMA. IT IS IMPORTANT TO ALWAYS THINK OF WHAT WE WANT, RATHER THAN OF WHAT WE DON'T HAVE.

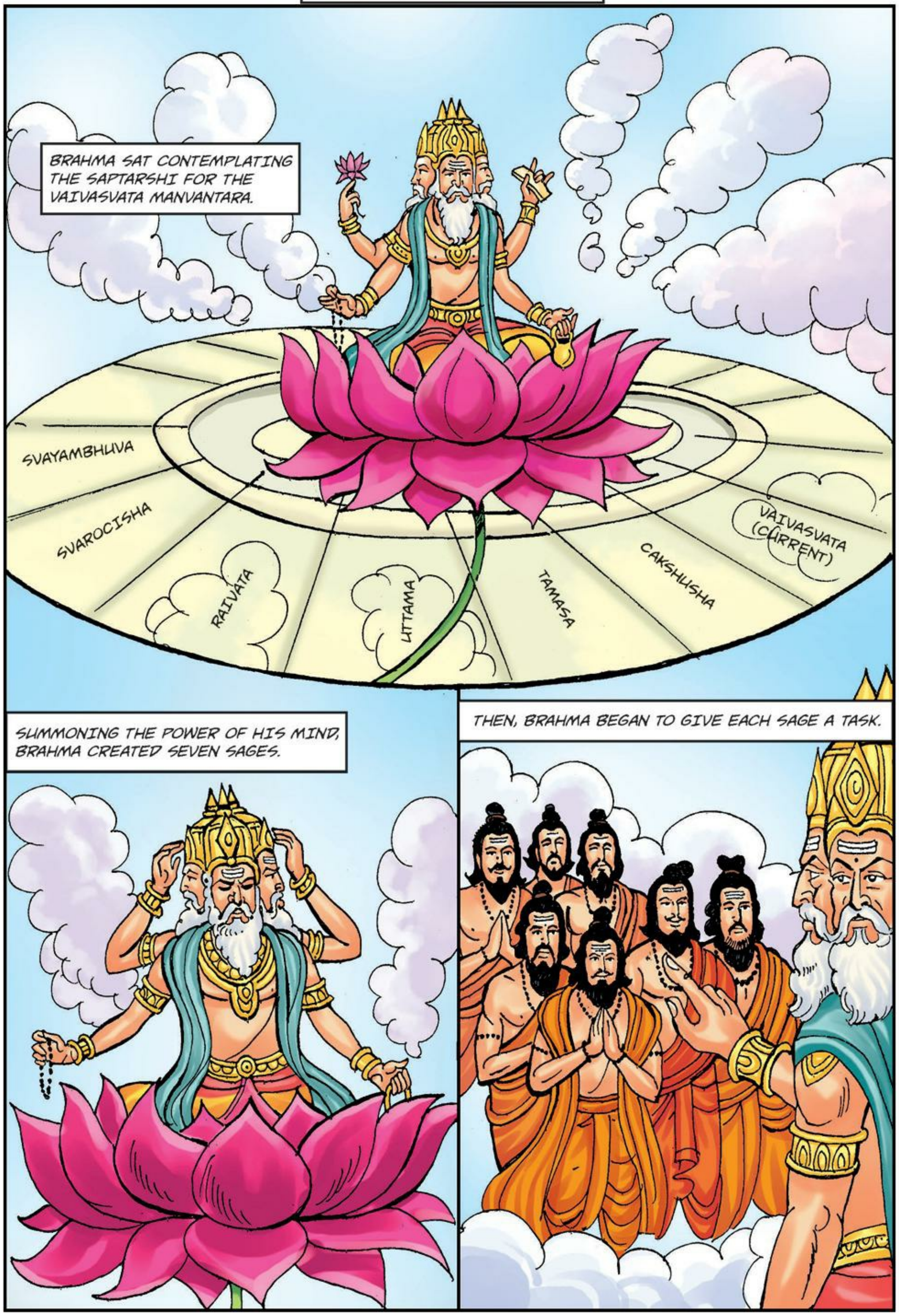

SOMETIMES WE MAY NOT KNOW WHAT WE WANT.
THAT IS WHY YOU SHOULD READ THE HOLY BOOKS AND ALSO FOLLOW THE ADVICE OF WISE MEN.

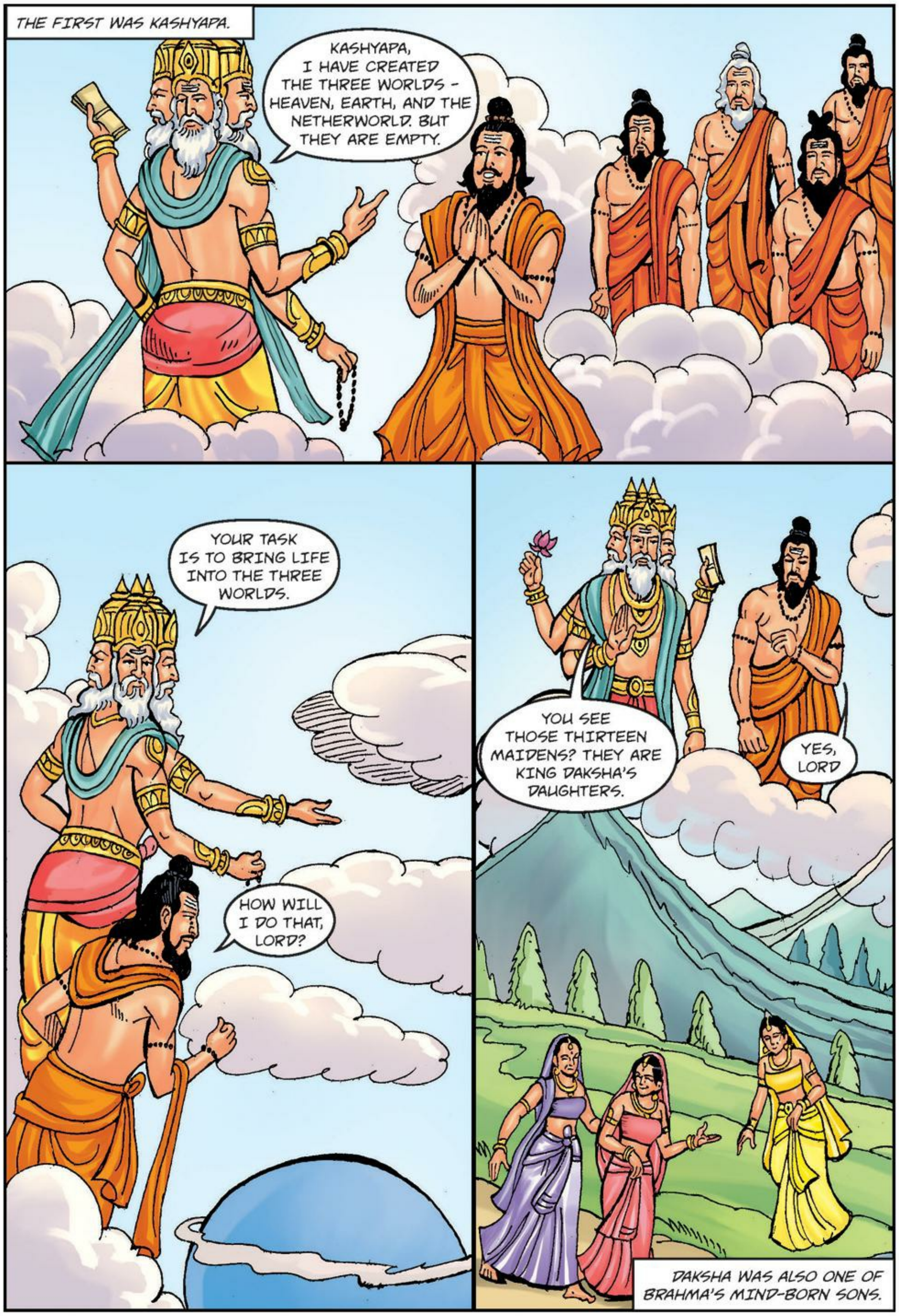

WHAT DO WE DO IF WE ARE STILL PLAGUED BY UNPLEASANT THOUGHTS?
YOU SHOULD CONCENTRATE ON YOUR DUTIES AT THAT MOMENT. THAT WILL KEEP UNNECESSARY THOUGHTS FROM COMING INTO YOUR MIND.

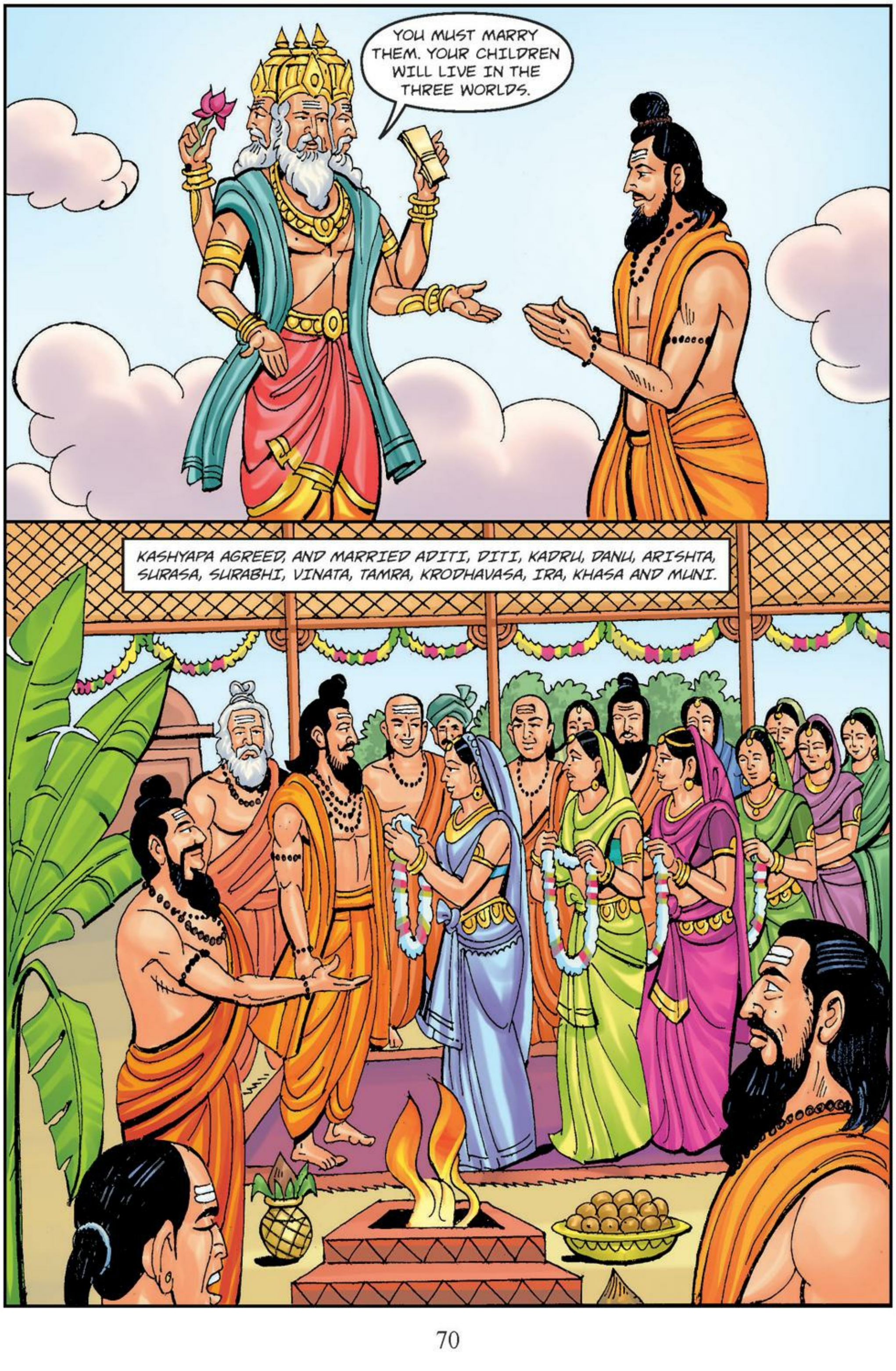

THANK YOU, GURUJI. BUT THERE ARE STILL MANY QUESTIONS IN MY MIND.
YOU MUST ASK ME ALL OF THEM. WE SHALL NOT LEAVE THIS ROOM UNTIL I HAVE ANSWERED THEM.
SAGE VASISHTHA ADDRESSED RAMA'S CONCERNS THROUGH STORIES.*
I AM READY TO COME WITH YOU.
RAMA AND LAKSHMANA BECAME BRAVE WARRIORS UNDER THE TUTELAGE OF VISHWAMITRA.
VASISHTHA HAS HELPED THE KINGS OF THE SOLAR DYNASTY FOR A LONG TIME. HE CAN NOW RETURN TO ME.
VASISHTHA AND ARUNDHATI THEN MERGED INTO THE SAPTARSHI MANDALA.

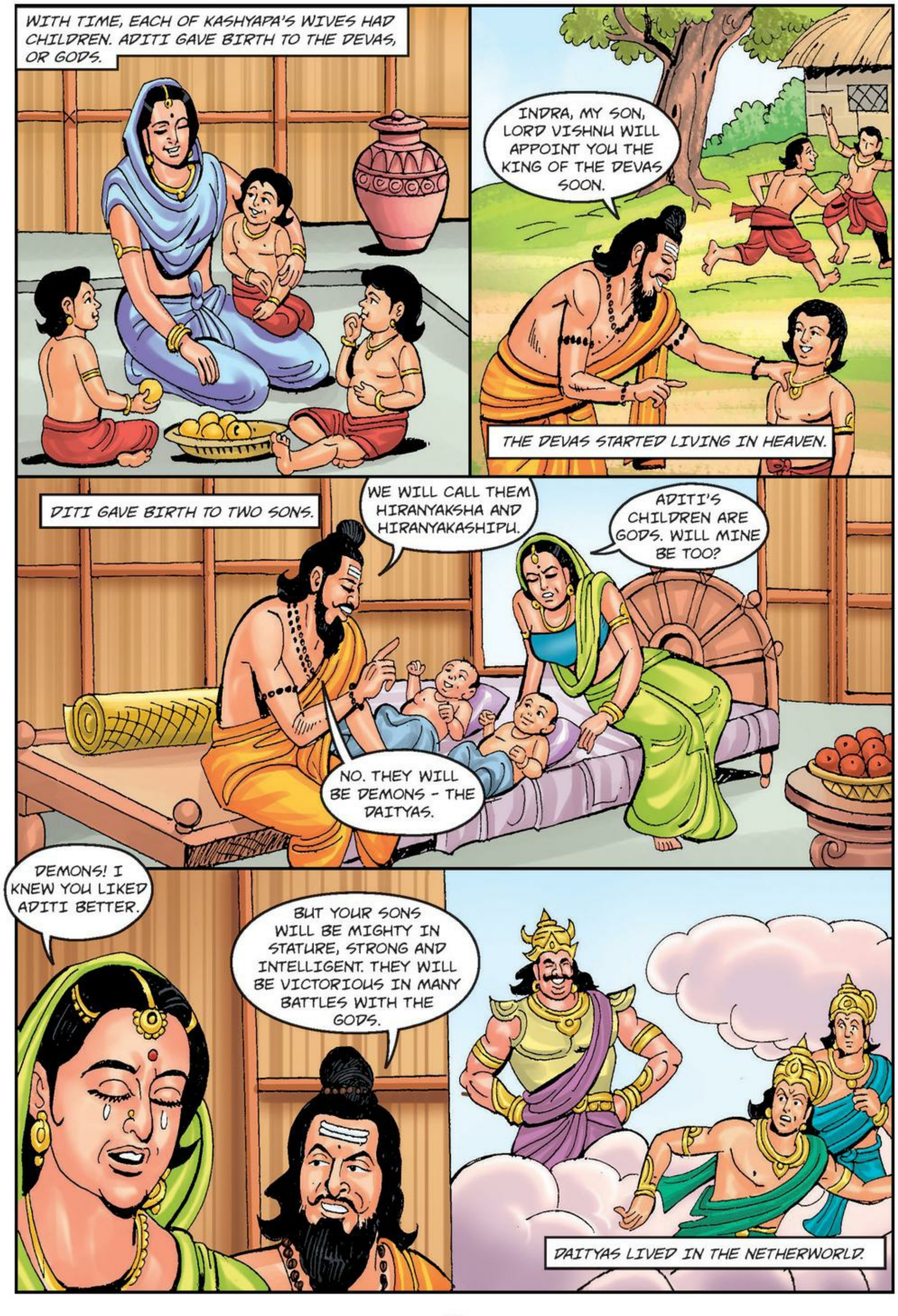
*THE CONVERSATION BETWEEN RAMA AND VASISHTHA IS DOCUMENTED IN A PHILOSOPHICAL TEXT CALLED 'YOGA VASISHTHA'. IT IS BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN WRITTEN BY VALMIKI.

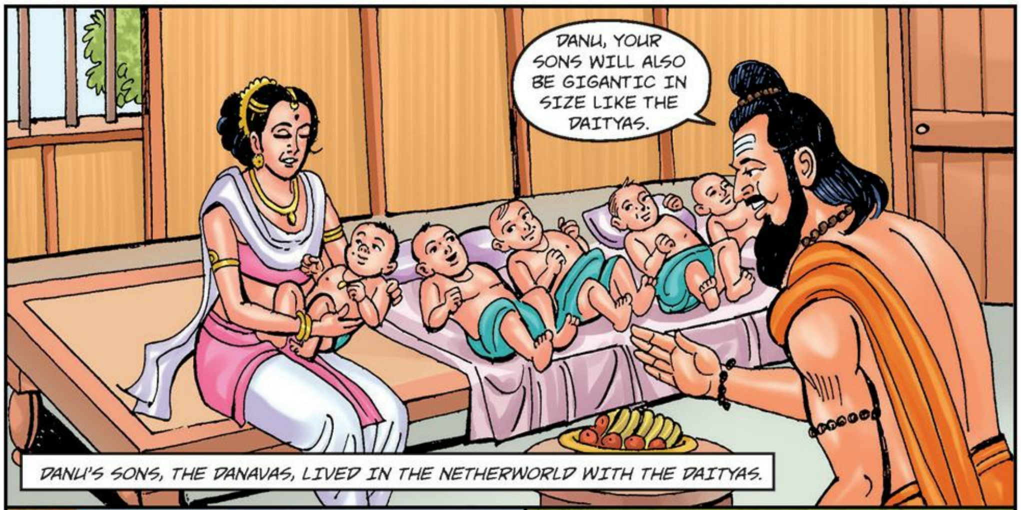
KASHYAPA

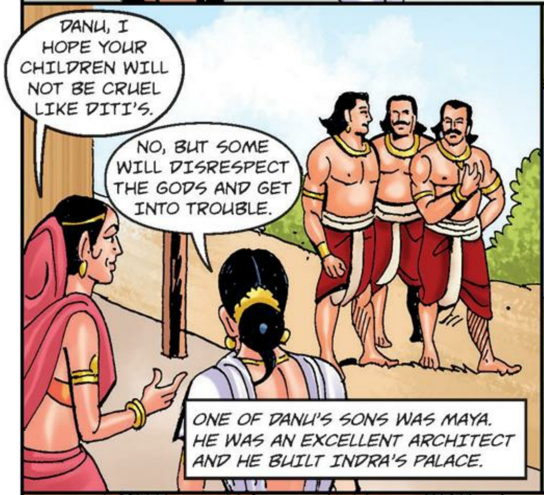

BRAHMA SAT CONTEMPLATING THE SAPTARSHI FOR THE VAIVASVATA MANVANTARA.
SVAYAMBHUVA
SVAROCISHA
RAIVATA
UTTAMA
TAMASA
CAKSHUSHA
VAIVASVATA (CURRENT)
SUMMONING THE POWER OF HIS MIND, BRAHMA CREATED SEVEN SAGES.
THEN, BRAHMA BEGAN TO GIVE EACH SAGE A TASK.

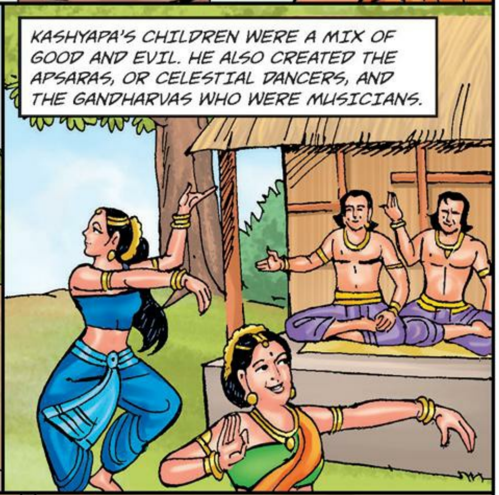

THE FIRST WAS KASHYAPA.
KASHYAPA, I HAVE CREATED THE THREE WORLDS - HEAVEN, EARTH, AND THE NETHERWORLD. BUT THEY ARE EMPTY.
YOUR TASK IS TO BRING LIFE INTO THE THREE WORLDS.
HOW WILL I DO THAT, LORD?
YOU SEE THOSE THIRTEEN MAIDENS? THEY ARE KING DAKSHA'S DAUGHTERS.
YES, LORD
DAKSHA WAS ALSO ONE OF BRAHMA'S MIND-BORN SONS.

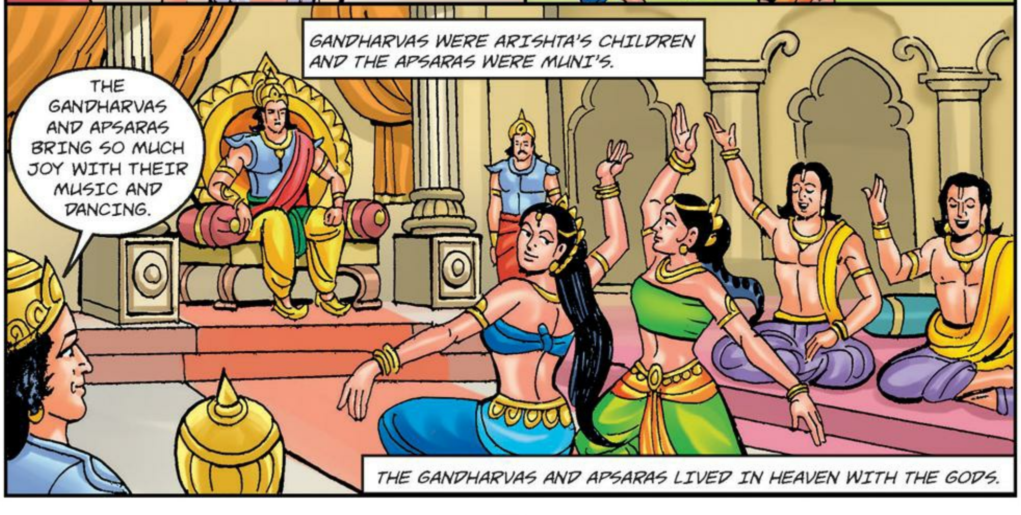

YOU MUST MARRY THEM. YOUR CHILDREN WILL LIVE IN THE THREE WORLDS.
KASHYAPA AGREED, AND MARRIED ADITI, DITI, KADRU, DANU, ARISHTA, SURASA, SURABHI, VINATA, TAMRA, KRODHAVASA, IRA, KHASA AND MUNI.

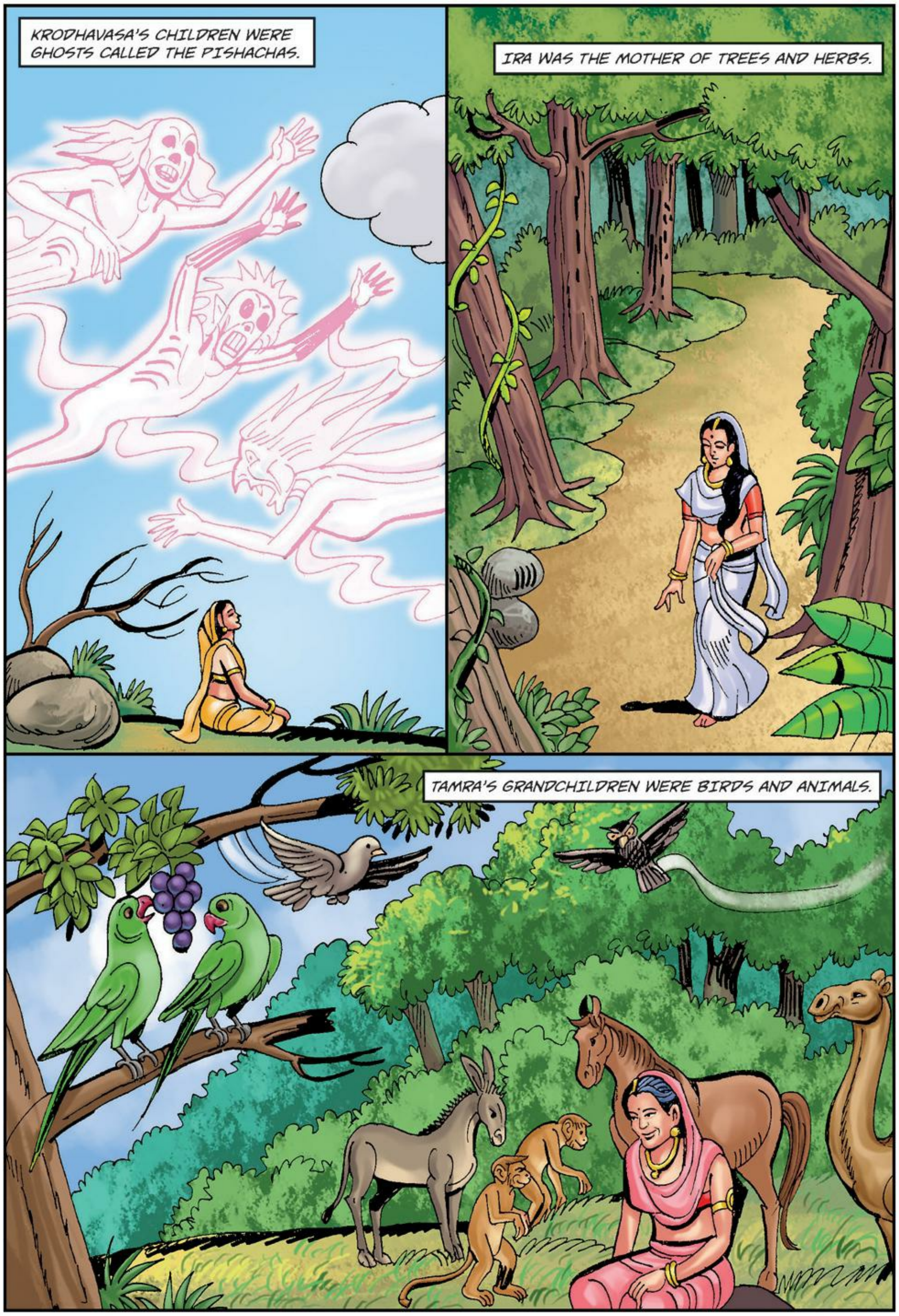

WITH TIME, EACH OF KASHYAPA'S WIVES HAD CHILDREN. ADITI GAVE BIRTH TO THE DEVAS, OR GODS.
INDRA, MY SON, LORD VISHNU WILL APPOINT YOU THE KING OF THE DEVAS SOON.
THE DEVAS STARTED LIVING IN HEAVEN.
DITI GAVE BIRTH TO TWO SONS.
WE WILL CALL THEM HIRANYAKSHA AND HIRANYAKASHIPU.
ADITI'S CHILDREN ARE GODS. WILL MINE BE TOO?
NO. THEY WILL BE DEMONS - THE DAITYAS.
DEMONS! I KNEW YOU LIKED ADITI BETTER.
BUT YOUR SONS WILL BE MIGHTY IN STATURE, STRONG AND INTELLIGENT. THEY WILL BE VICTORIOUS IN MANY BATTLES WITH THE GODS.
DAITYAS LIVED IN THE NETHERWORLD.

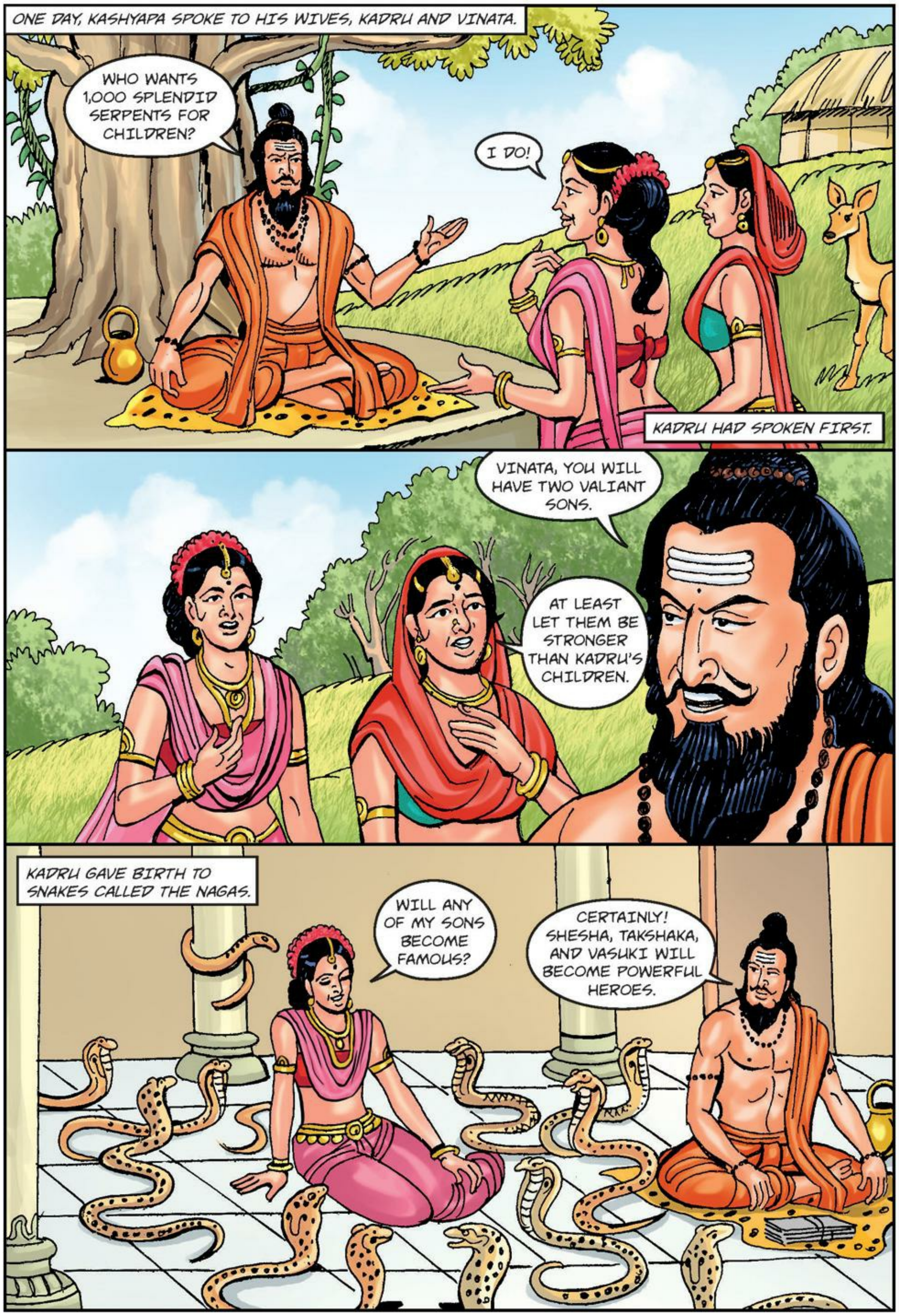

DANU, YOUR SONS WILL ALSO BE GIGANTIC IN SIZE LIKE THE DAITYAS.
DANU'S SONS, THE DANAVAS, LIVED IN THE NETHERWORLD WITH THE DAITYAS.

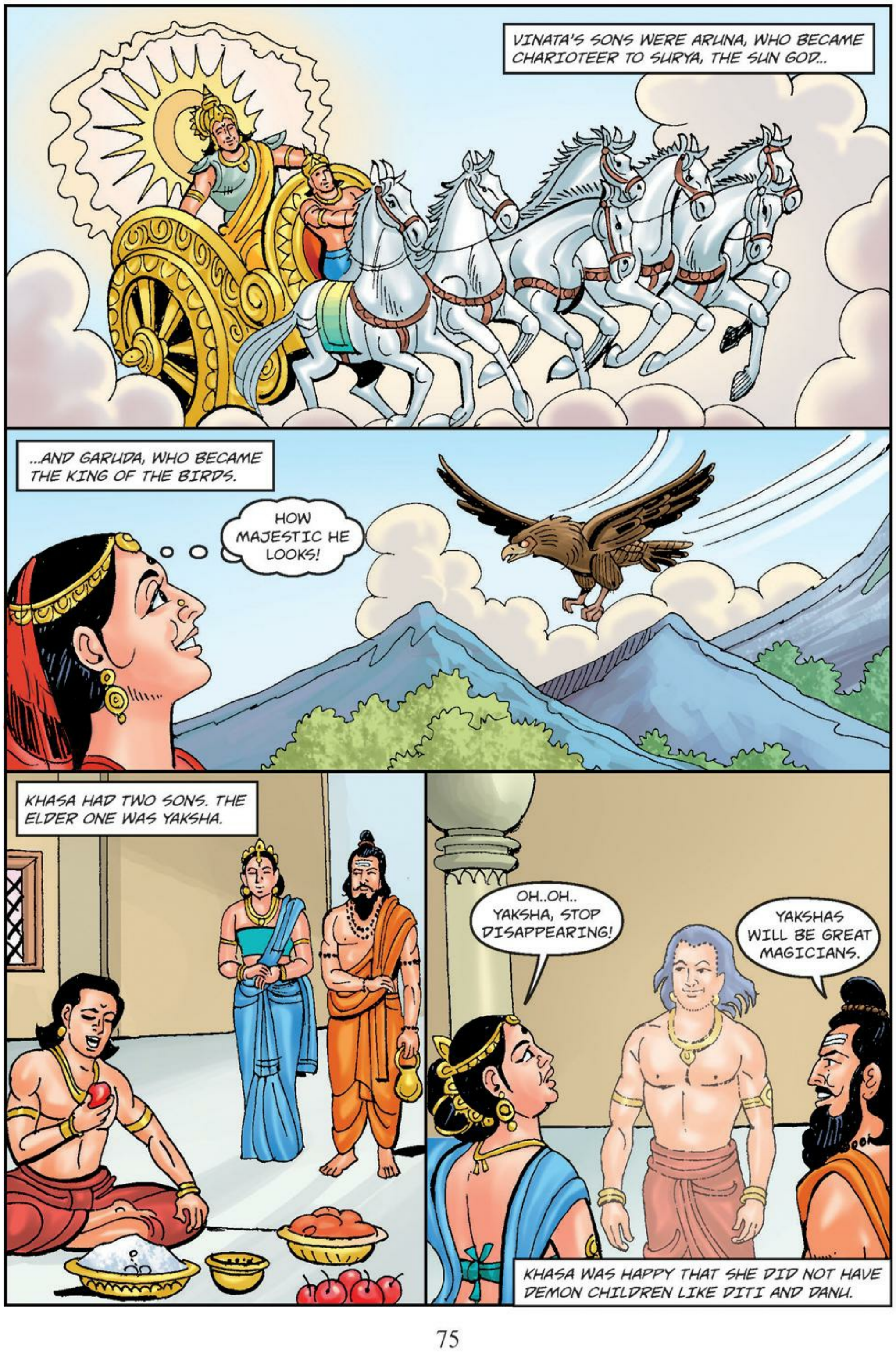

DANU, I HOPE YOUR CHILDREN WILL NOT BE CRUEL LIKE DITI'S.
NO, BUT SOME WILL DISRESPECT THE GODS AND GET INTO TROUBLE.
ONE OF DANU'S SONS WAS MAYA. HE WAS AN EXCELLENT ARCHITECT AND HE BUILT INDRA'S PALACE.

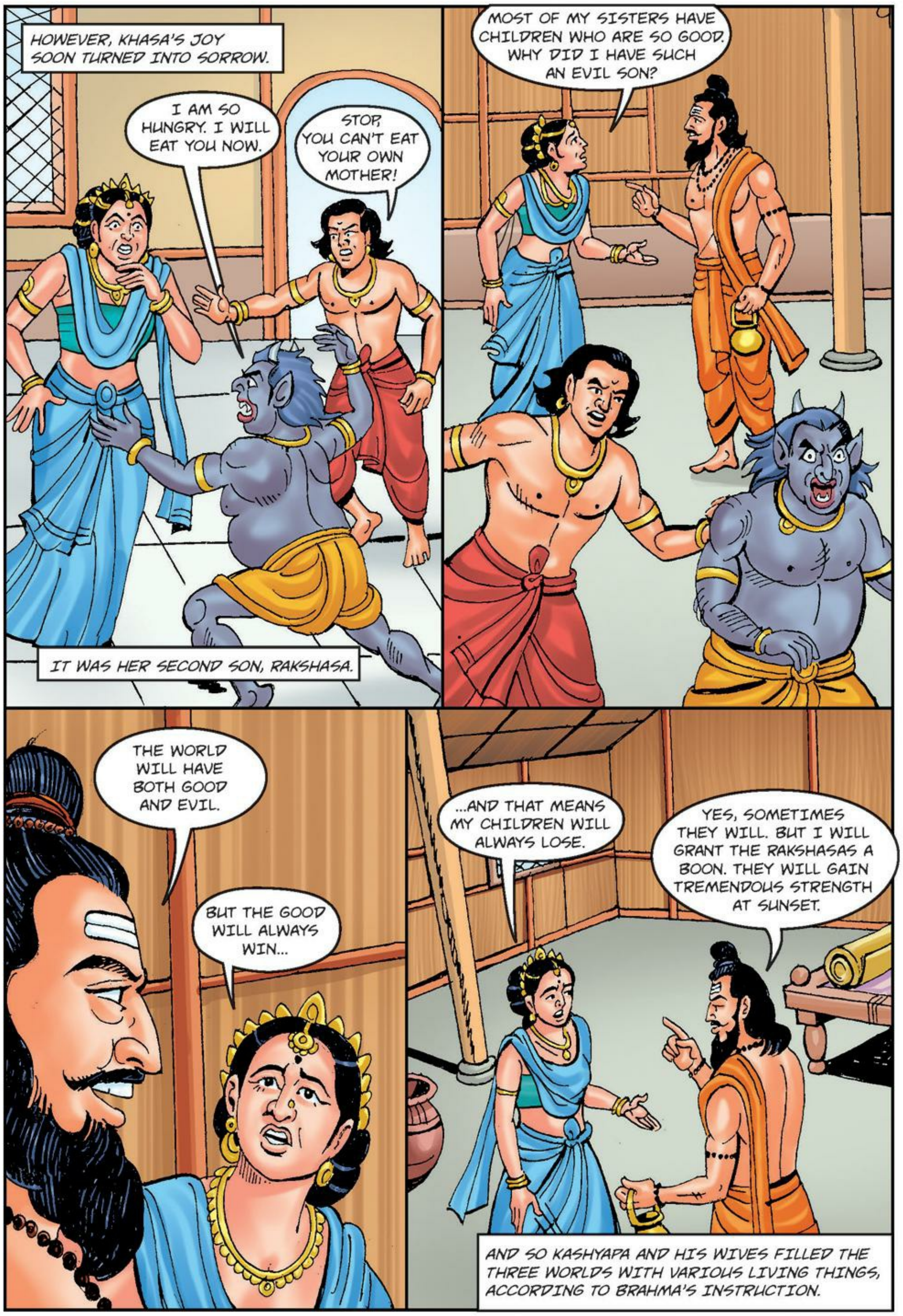

KASHYAPA'S CHILDREN WERE A MIX OF GOOD AND EVIL. HE ALSO CREATED THE APSARAS, OR CELESTIAL DANCERS, AND THE GANDHARVAS WHO WERE MUSICIANS.


GANDHARVAS WERE ARISHTA'S CHILDREN AND THE APSARAS WERE MUNI'S.
THE GANDHARVAS AND APSARAS BRING SO MUCH JOY WITH THEIR MUSIC AND DANCING.
THE GANDHARVAS AND APSARAS LIVED IN HEAVEN WITH THE GODS.

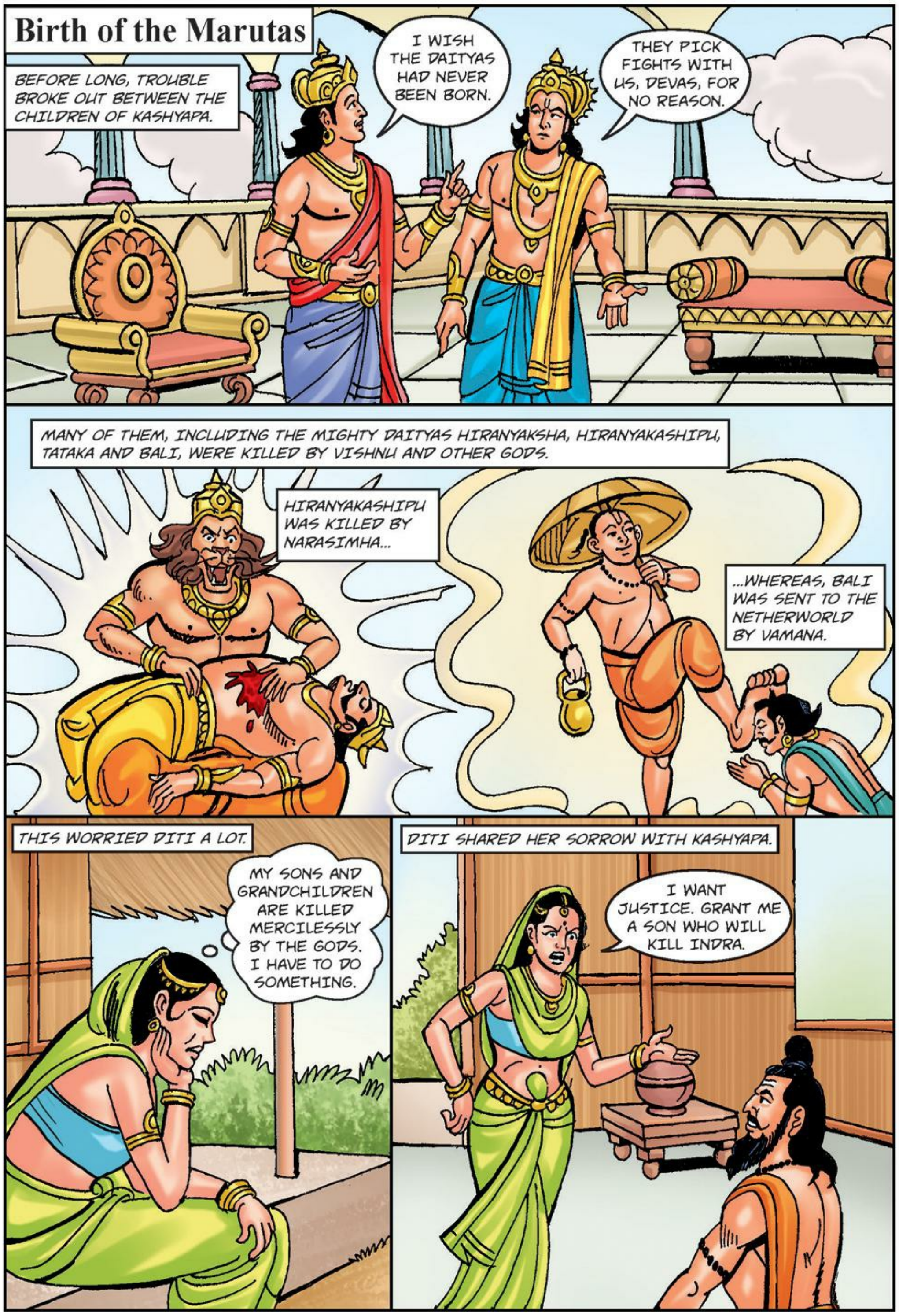

KRODHAVASA'S CHILDREN WERE GHOSTS CALLED THE PISHACHAS.
IRA WAS THE MOTHER OF TREES AND HERBS.
TAMRA'S GRANDCHILDREN WERE BIRDS AND ANIMALS.

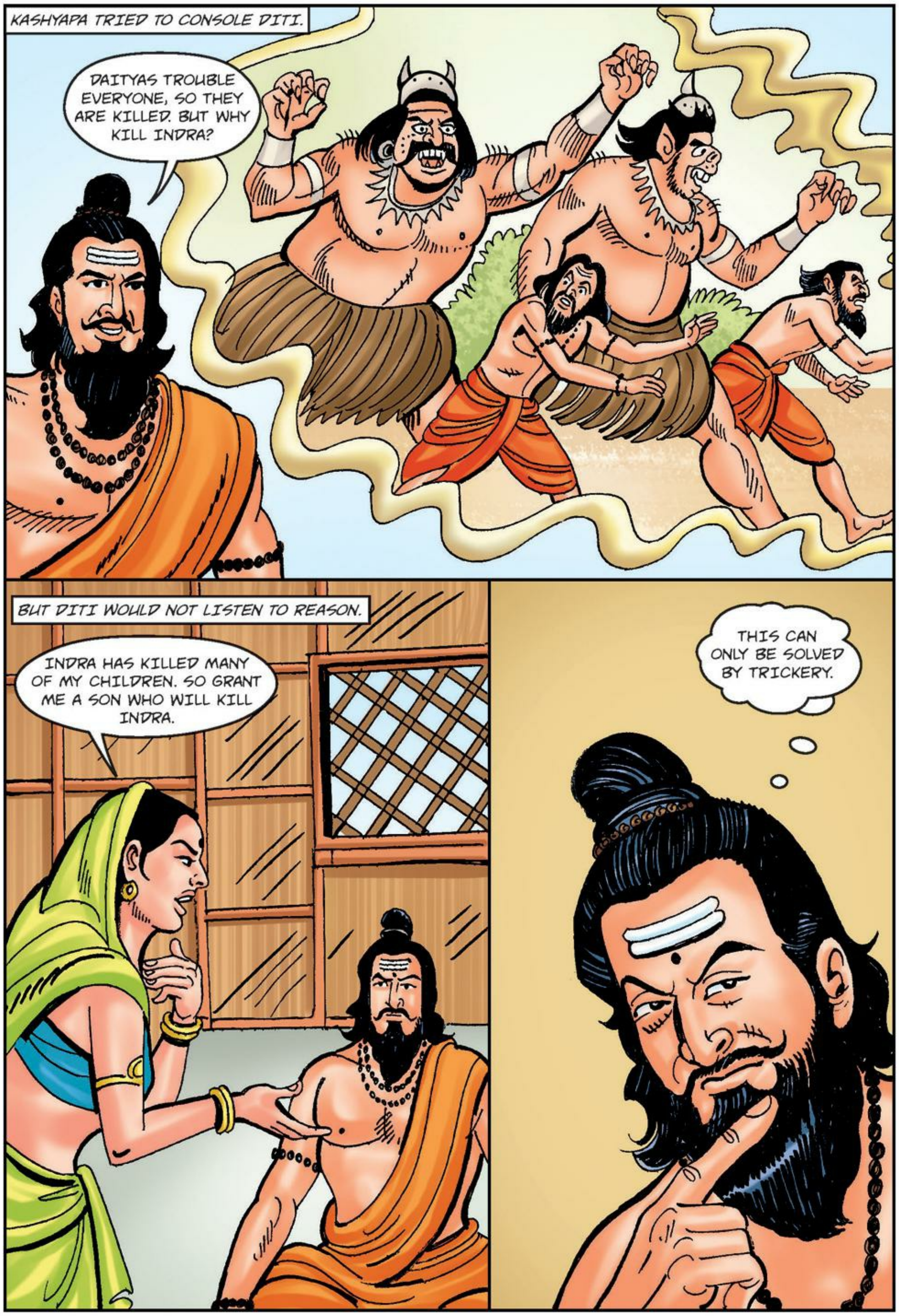

ONE DAY, KASHYAPA SPOKE TO HIS WIVES, KADRU AND VINATA.
WHO WANTS 1,000 SPLENDID SERPENTS FOR CHILDREN?
I DO!
KADRU HAD SPOKEN FIRST.
VINATA, YOU WILL HAVE TWO VALIANT SONS.
AT LEAST LET THEM BE STRONGER THAN KADRU'S CHILDREN.
KADRU GAVE BIRTH TO SNAKES CALLED THE NAGAS.
WILL ANY OF MY SONS BECOME FAMOUS?
CERTAINLY! SHESHA, TAKSHAKA, AND VASUKI WILL BECOME POWERFUL HEROES.

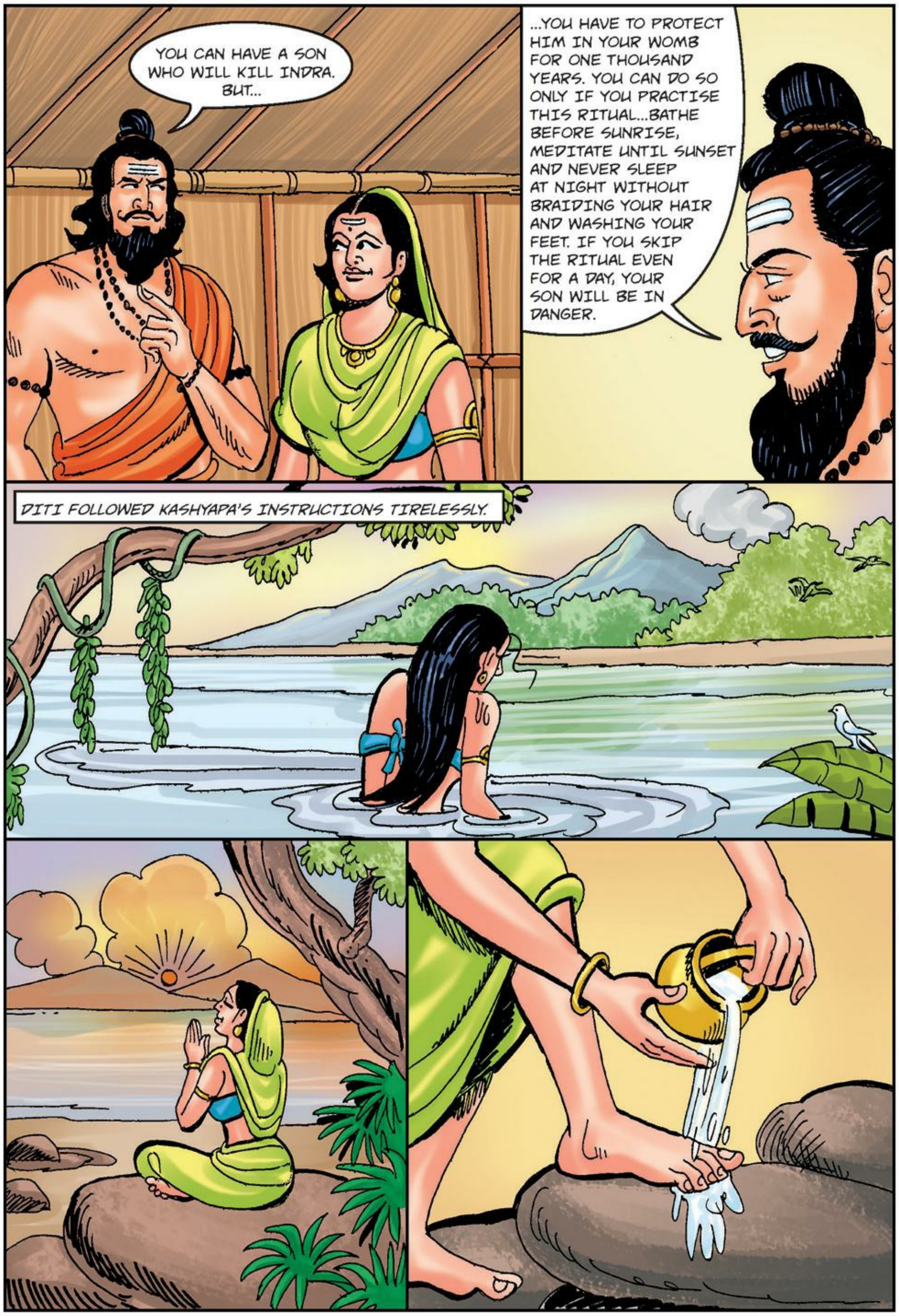

VINATA'S SONS WERE ARUNA, WHO BECAME CHARIOTEER TO SURYA, THE SUN GOD..
...AND GARUDA, WHO BECAME THE KING OF THE BIRDS.
HOW MAJESTIC HE LOOKS!
KHASA HAD TWO SONS. THE ELDER ONE WAS YAKSHA.
OH..OH.. YAKSHA, STOP DISAPPEARING!
YAKSHAS WILL BE GREAT MAGICIANS.
KHASA WAS HAPPY THAT SHE DID NOT HAVE DEMON CHILDREN LIKE DITI AND DANU.

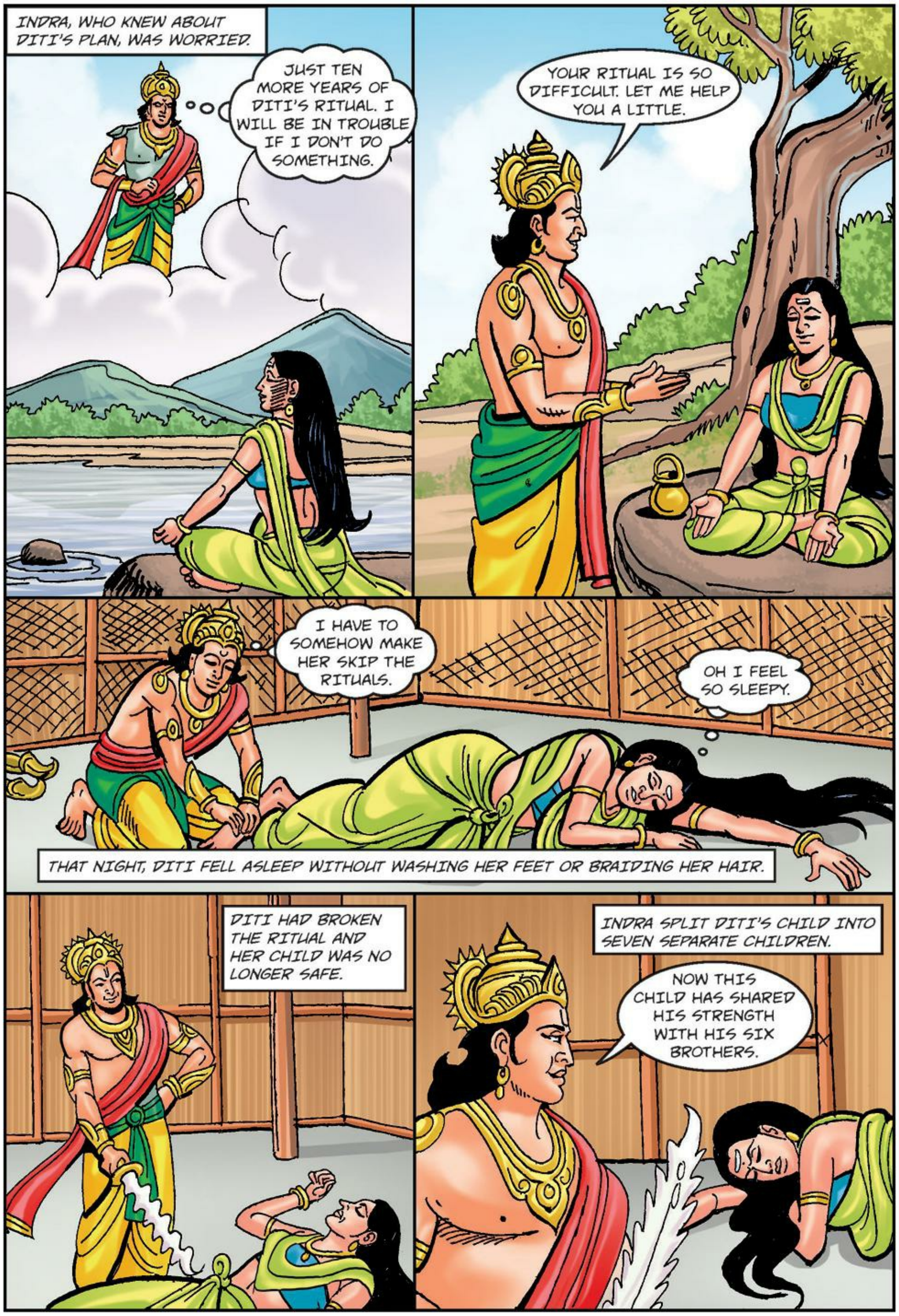

HOWEVER, KHASA'S JOY SOON TURNED INTO SORROW.
I AM SO HUNGRY. I WILL EAT YOU NOW.
STOP, YOU CAN'T EAT YOUR OWN MOTHER!
IT WAS HER SECOND SON, RAKSHASA.
MOST OF MY SISTERS HAVE CHILDREN WHO ARE SO GOOD. WHY DID I HAVE SUCH AN EVIL SON?
THE WORLD WILL HAVE BOTH GOOD AND EVIL.
BUT THE GOOD WILL ALWAYS WIN...
...AND THAT MEANS MY CHILDREN WILL ALWAYS LOSE.
YES, SOMETIMES THEY WILL. BUT I WILL GRANT THE RAKSHASAS A BOON. THEY WILL GAIN TREMENDOUS STRENGTH AT SUNSET.
AND SO KASHYAPA AND HIS WIVES FILLED THE THREE WORLDS WITH VARIOUS LIVING THINGS, ACCORDING TO BRAHMA'S INSTRUCTION.

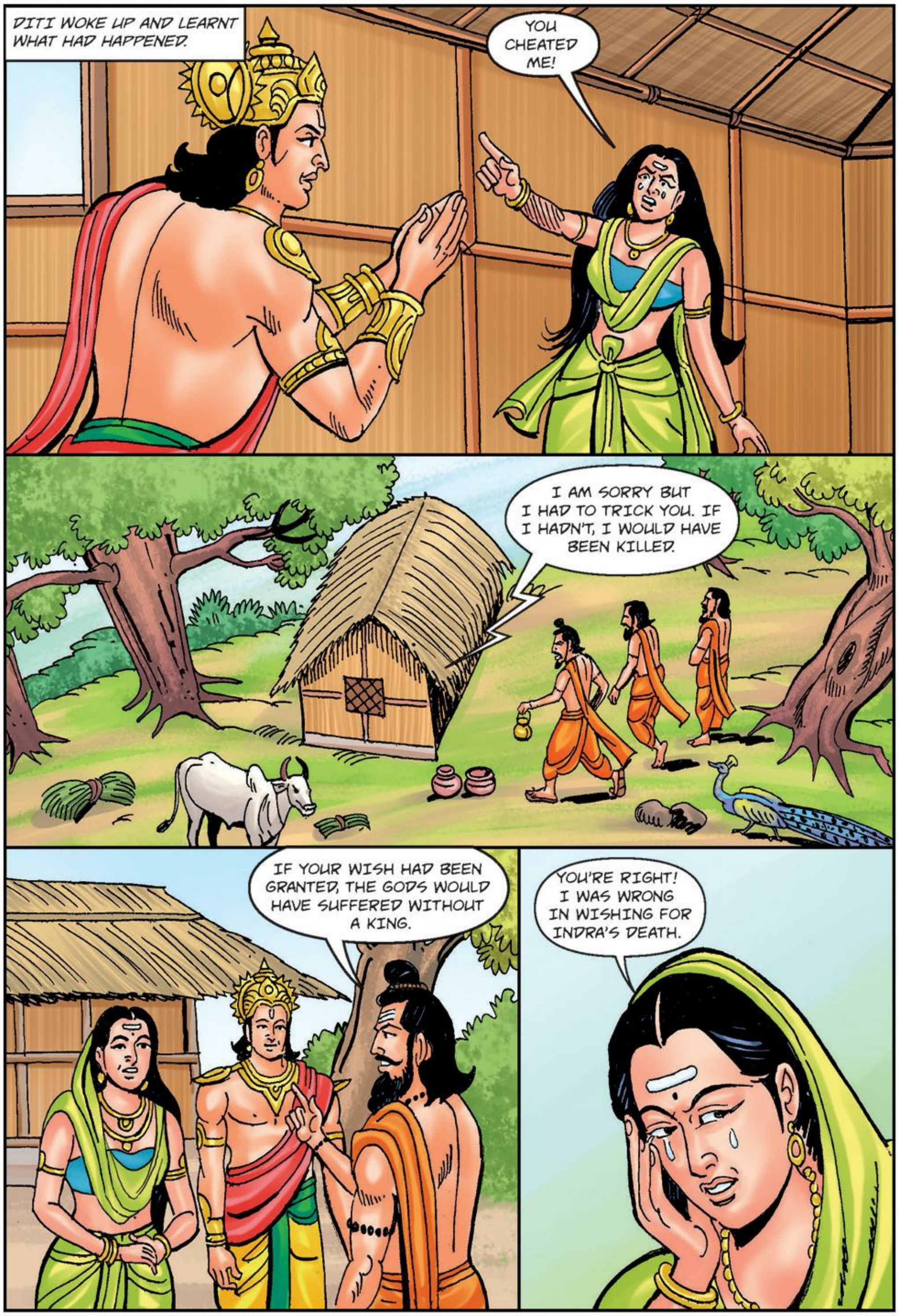
Birth of the Marutas

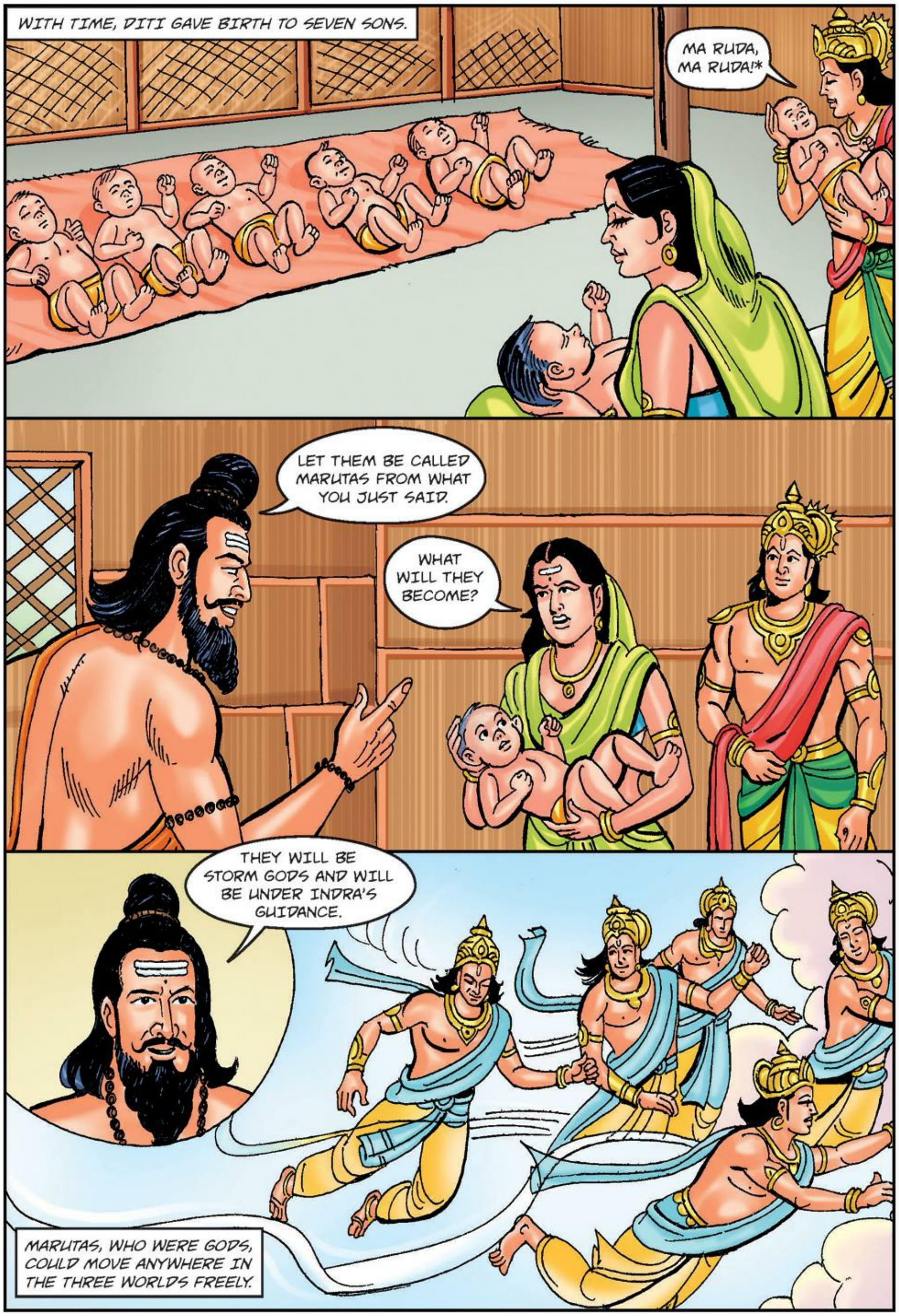

BEFORE LONG, TROUBLE BROKE OUT BETWEEN THE CHILDREN OF KASHYAPA.
I WISH THE DAITYAS HAD NEVER BEEN BORN.
THEY PICK FIGHTS WITH US, DEVAS, FOR NO REASON.
MANY OF THEM, INCLUDING THE MIGHTY DAITYAS HIRANYAKSHA, HIRANYAKASHIPU, TATAKA AND BALI, WERE KILLED BY VISHNU AND OTHER GODS.
HIRANYAKASHIPU WAS KILLED BY NARASIMHA...
...WHEREAS, BALI WAS SENT TO THE NETHERWORLD BY VAMANA.
THIS WORRIED DITI A LOT.
MY SONS AND GRANDCHILDREN ARE KILLED MERCILESSLY BY THE GODS. I HAVE TO DO SOMETHING.
DITI SHARED HER SORROW WITH KASHYAPA.
I WANT JUSTICE. GRANT ME A SON WHO WILL KILL INDRA.


KASHYAPA TRIED TO CONSOLE DITI.
DAITYAS TROUBLE EVERYONE, SO THEY ARE KILLED. BUT WHY KILL INDRA?
BUT DITI WOULD NOT LISTEN TO REASON.
INDRA HAS KILLED MANY OF MY CHILDREN. SO GRANT ME A SON WHO WILL KILL INDRA.
THIS CAN ONLY BE SOLVED BY TRICKERY.


YOU CAN HAVE A SON WHO WILL KILL INDRA. BUT...
...YOU HAVE TO PROTECT HIM IN YOUR WOMB FOR ONE THOUSAND YEARS. YOU CAN DO SO ONLY IF YOU PRACTISE THIS RITUAL...BATHE BEFORE SUNRISE, MEDITATE UNTIL SUNSET AND NEVER SLEEP AT NIGHT WITHOUT BRAIDING YOUR HAIR AND WASHING YOUR FEET. IF YOU SKIP THE RITUAL EVEN FOR A DAY, YOUR SON WILL BE IN DANGER.
DITI FOLLOWED KASHYAPA'S INSTRUCTIONS TIRELESSLY.

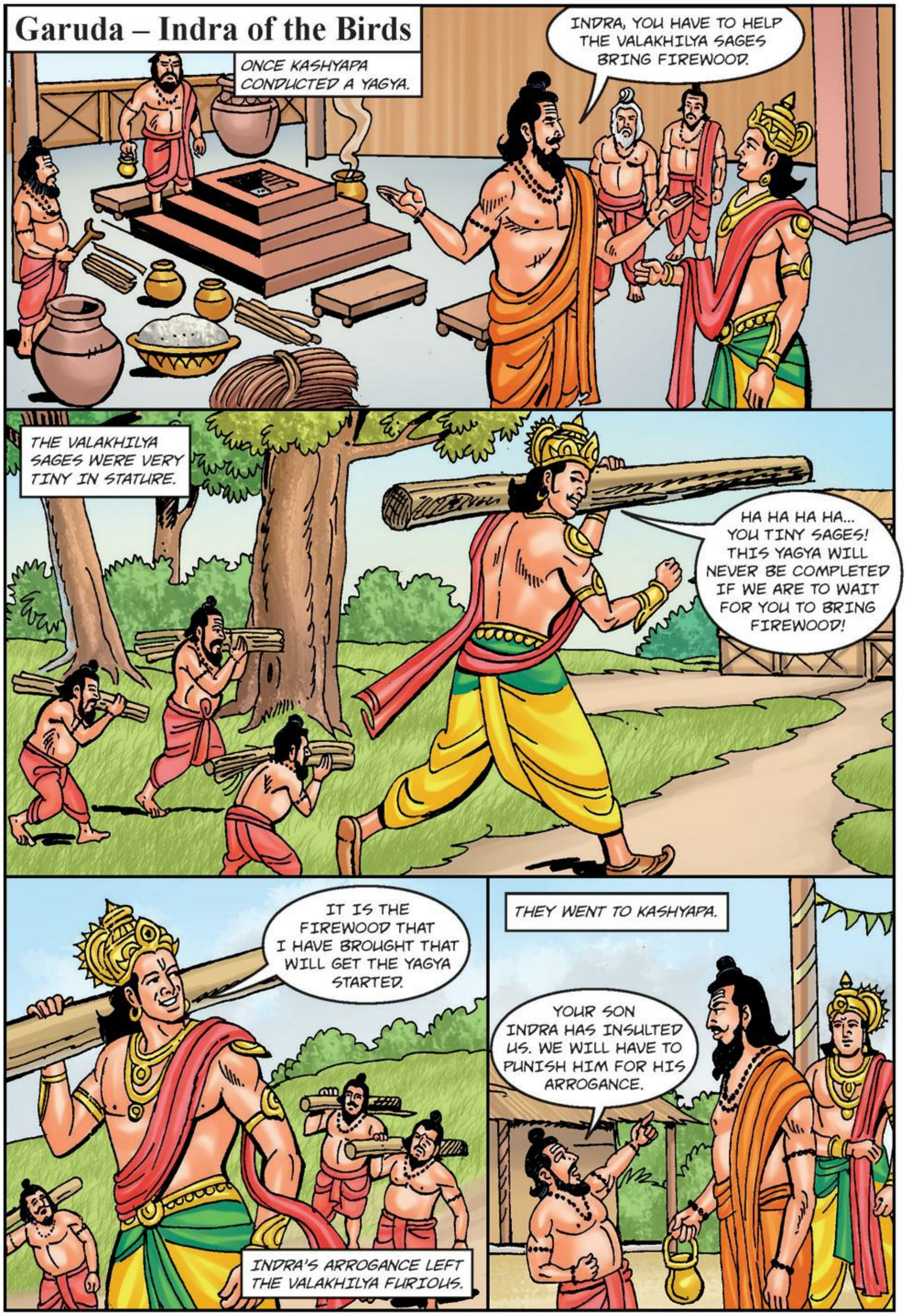

INDRA, WHO KNEW ABOUT DITI'S PLAN, WAS WORRIED.
JUST TEN MORE YEARS OF DITI'S RITUAL. I WILL BE IN TROUBLE IF I DON'T DO SOMETHING.
YOUR RITUAL IS SO DIFFICULT. LET ME HELP YOU A LITTLE.
I HAVE TO SOMEHOW MAKE HER SKIP THE RITUALS.
OH I FEEL SO SLEEPY.
THAT NIGHT, DITI FELL ASLEEP WITHOUT WASHING HER FEET OR BRAIDING HER HAIR.
DITI HAD BROKEN THE RITUAL AND HER CHILD WAS NO LONGER SAFE.
INDRA SPLIT DITI'S CHILD INTO SEVEN SEPARATE CHILDREN.
NOW THIS CHILD HAS SHARED HIS STRENGTH WITH HIS SIX BROTHERS.

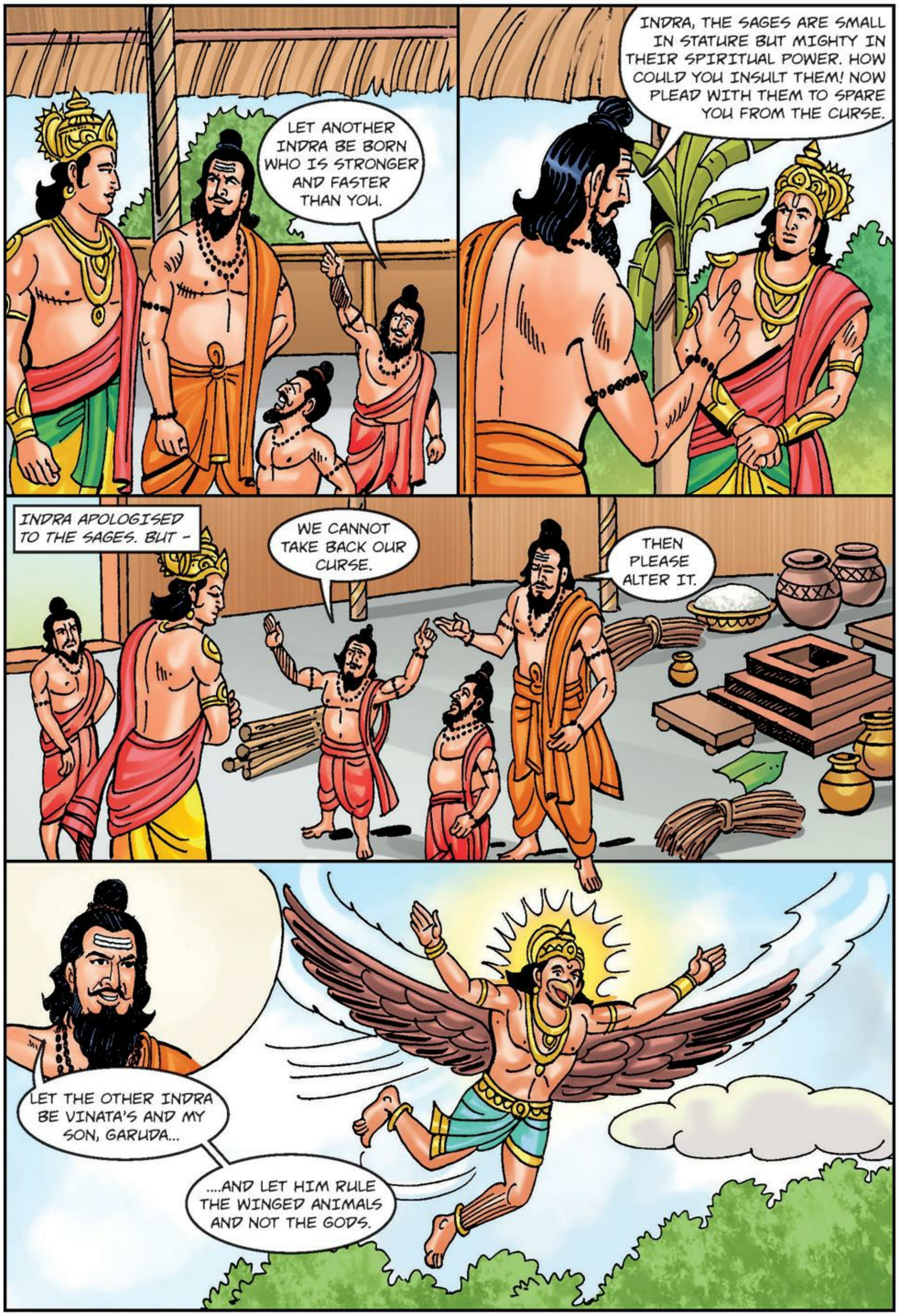

DITI WOKE UP AND LEARNT WHAT HAD HAPPENED.
YOU CHEATED ME!
I AM SORRY BUT I HAD TO TRICK YOU. IF I HADN'T, I WOULD HAVE BEEN KILLED.
IF YOUR WISH HAD BEEN GRANTED, THE GODS WOULD HAVE SUFFERED WITHOUT A KING.
YOU'RE RIGHT! I WAS WRONG IN WISHING FOR INDRA'S DEATH.


WITH TIME, DITI GAVE BIRTH TO SEVEN SONS.
MA RUDA, MA RUDA!*
LET THEM BE CALLED MARUTAS FROM WHAT YOU JUST SAID.
WHAT WILL THEY BECOME?
THEY WILL BE STORM GODS AND WILL BE UNDER INDRA'S GUIDANCE.
MARUTAS, WHO WERE GODS, COULD MOVE ANYWHERE IN THE THREE WORLDS FREELY.

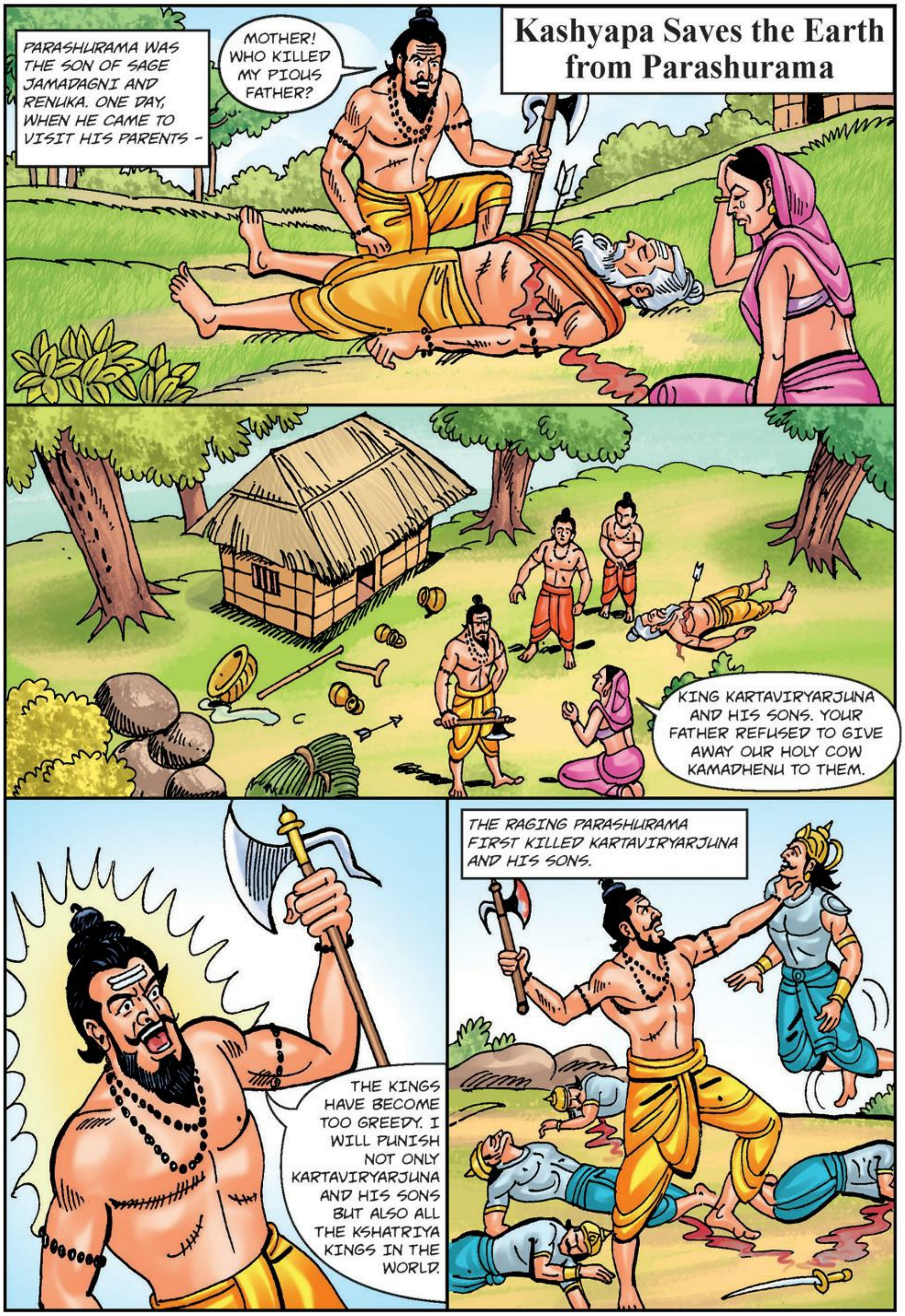
*DO NOT CRY.

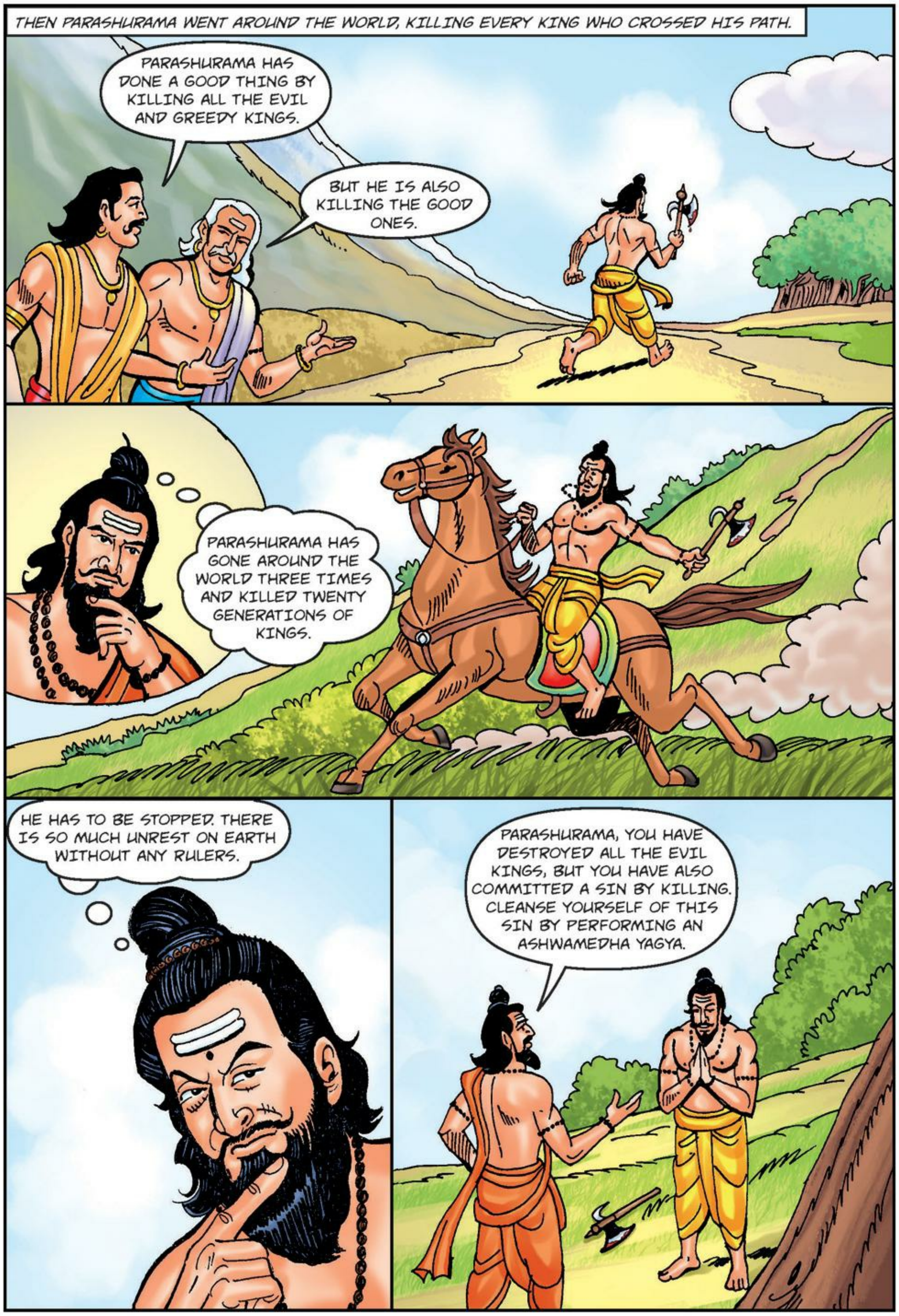
Garuda – Indra of the Birds

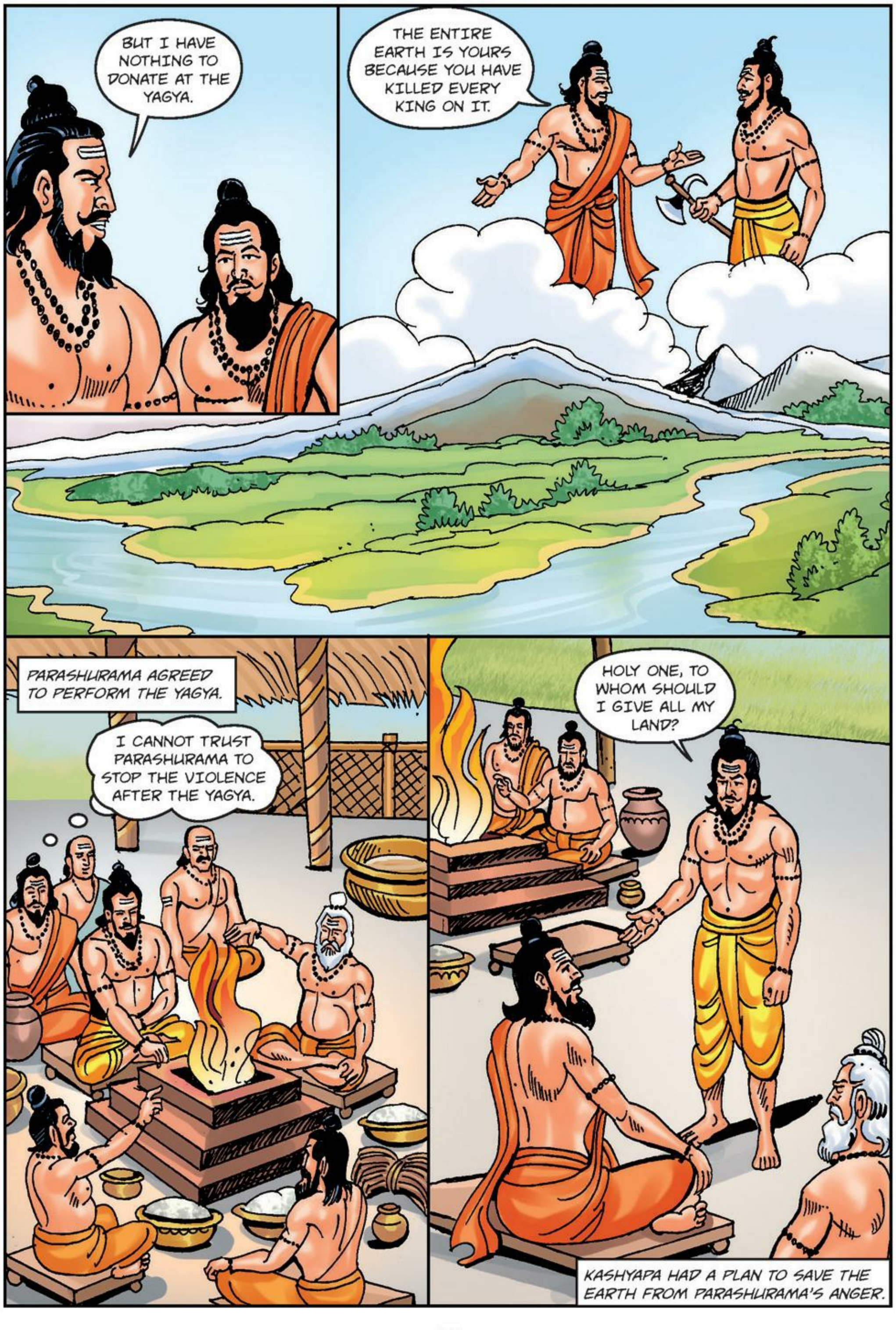

ONCE KASHYAPA CONDUCTED A YAGYA.
INDRA, YOU HAVE TO HELP THE VALAKHILYA SAGES BRING FIREWOOD.
THE VALAKHILYA SAGES WERE VERY TINY IN STATURE.
HA HA HA HA... YOU TINY SAGES! THIS YAGYA WILL NEVER BE COMPLETED IF WE ARE TO WAIT FOR YOU TO BRING FIREWOOD!
IT IS THE FIREWOOD THAT I HAVE BROUGHT THAT WILL GET THE YAGYA STARTED.
INDRA'S ARROGANCE LEFT THE VALAKHILYA FURIOUS.
THEY WENT TO KASHYAPA.
YOUR SON INDRA HAS INSULTED US. WE WILL HAVE TO PUNISH HIM FOR HIS ARROGANCE.

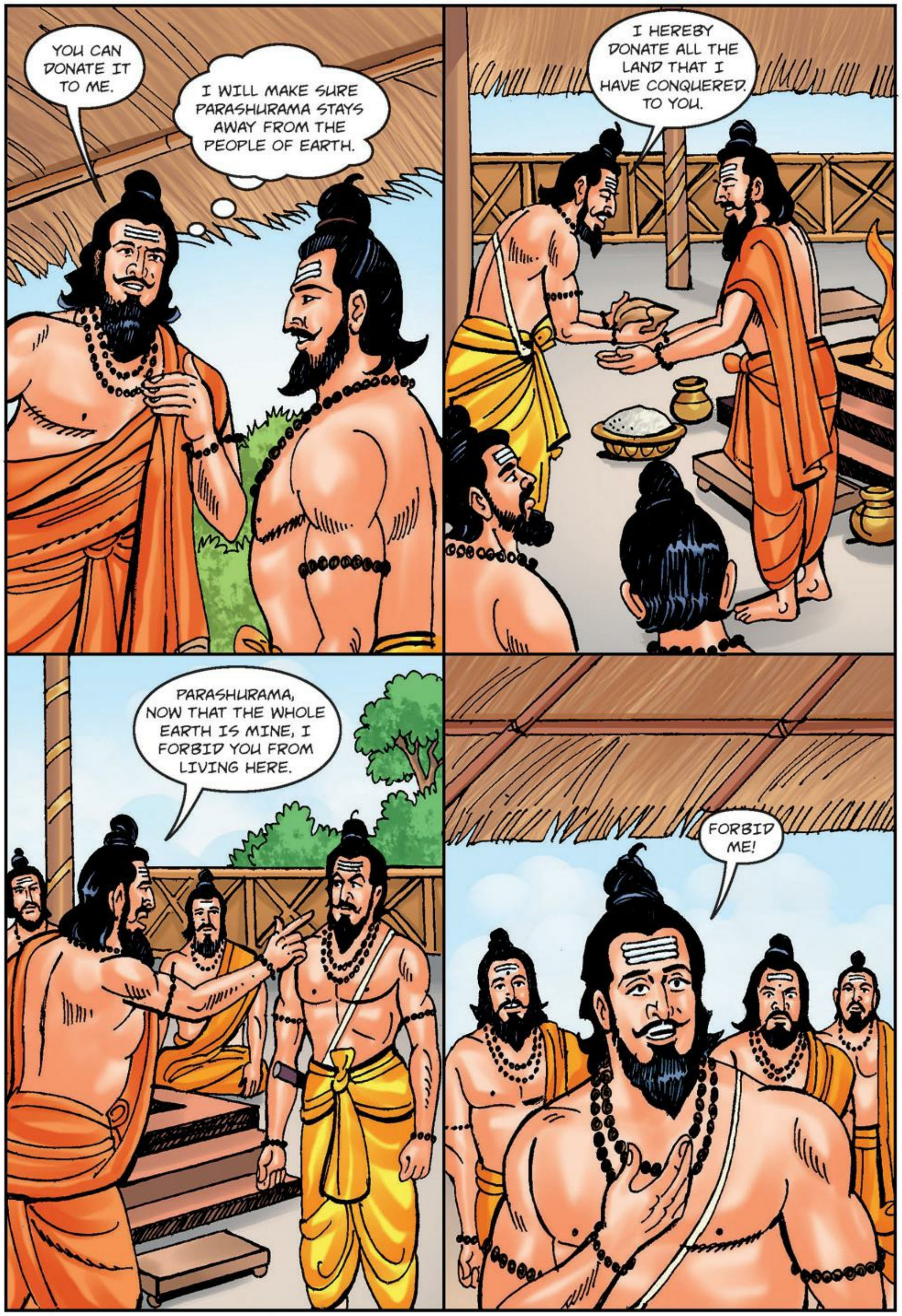

LET ANOTHER INDRA BE BORN WHO IS STRONGER AND FASTER THAN YOU.
INDRA, THE SAGES ARE SMALL IN STATURE BUT MIGHTY IN THEIR SPIRITUAL POWER. HOW COULD YOU INSULT THEM! NOW PLEAD WITH THEM TO SPARE YOU FROM THE CURSE.
INDRA APOLOGISED TO THE SAGES. BUT -
WE CANNOT TAKE BACK OUR CURSE.
THEN PLEASE ALTER IT.
LET THE OTHER INDRA BE VINATA'S AND MY SON, GARUDA...
....AND LET HIM RULE THE WINGED ANIMALS AND NOT THE GODS.

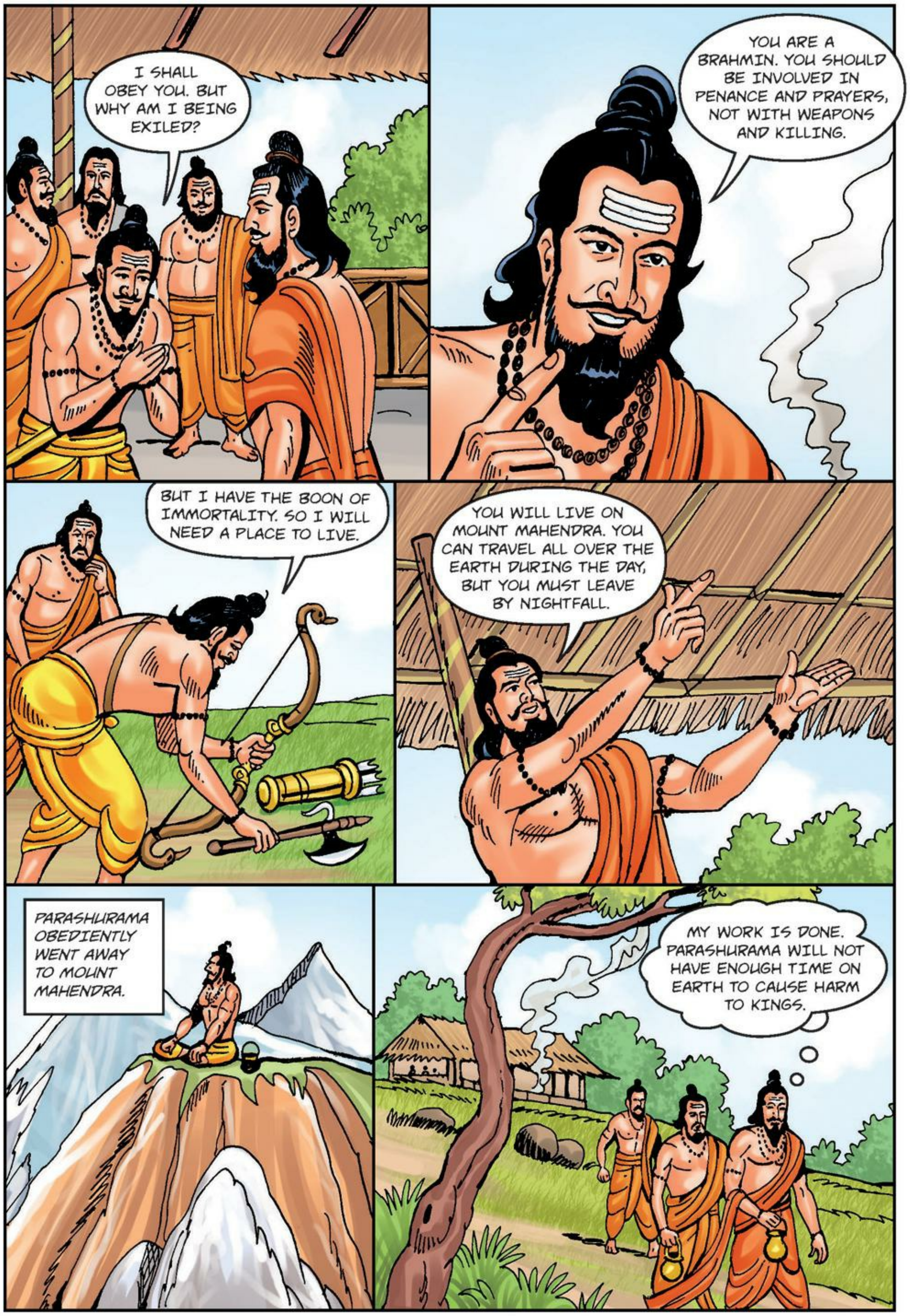
Kashyapa Saves the Earth from Parashurama


PARASHURAMA WAS THE SON OF SAGE JAMADAGNI AND RENUKA. ONE DAY, WHEN HE CAME TO VISIT HIS PARENTS -
MOTHER! WHO KILLED MY PIOUS FATHER?
KING KARTAVIRYARJUNA AND HIS SONS. YOUR FATHER REFUSED TO GIVE AWAY OUR HOLY COW KAMADHENU TO THEM.
THE KINGS HAVE BECOME TOO GREEDY. I WILL PUNISH NOT ONLY KARTAVIRYARJUNA AND HIS SONS BUT ALSO ALL THE KSHATRIYA KINGS IN THE WORLD.
THE RAGING PARASHURAMA FIRST KILLED KARTAVIRYARJUNA AND HIS SONS.

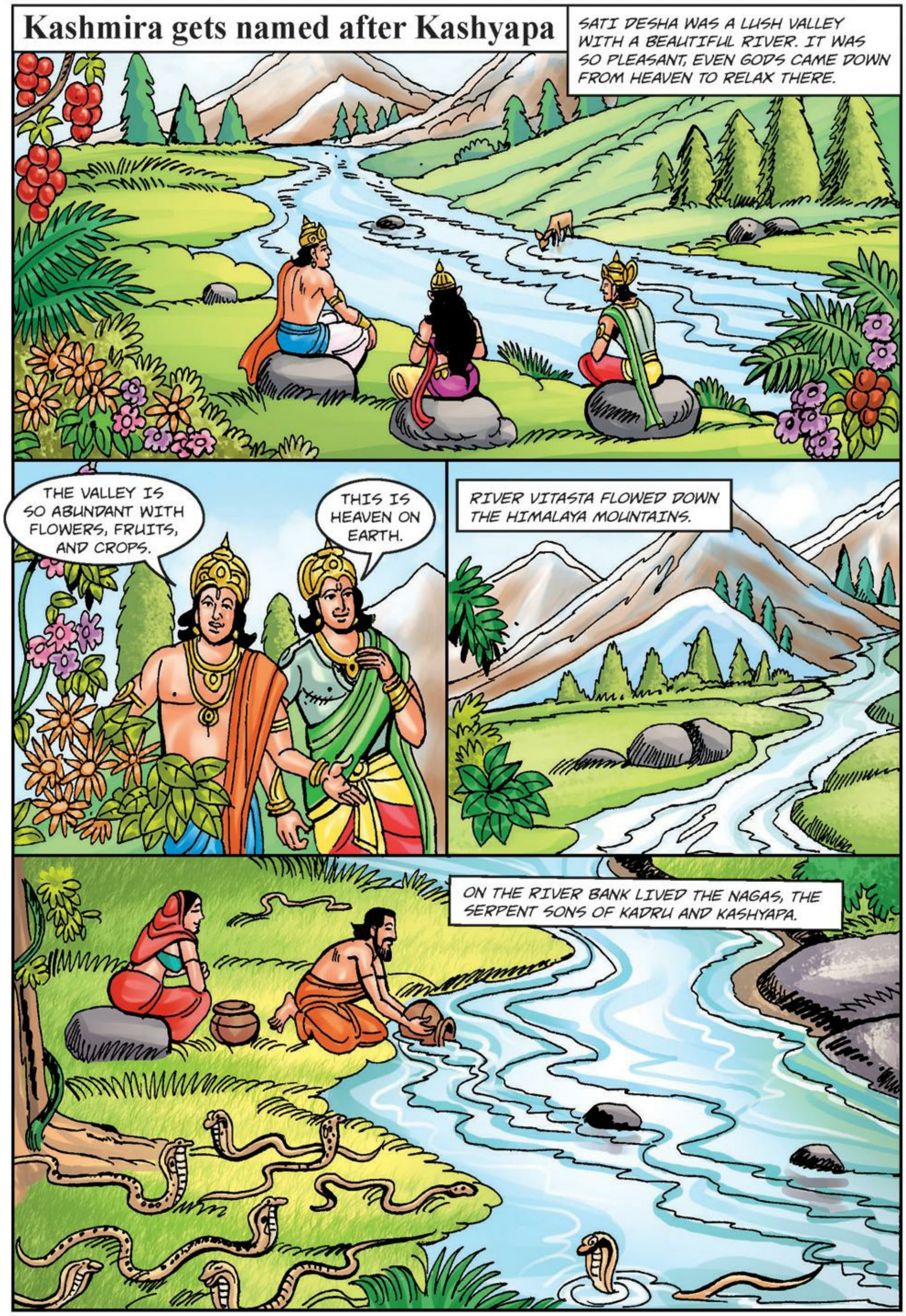

THEN PARASHURAMA WENT AROUND THE WORLD, KILLING EVERY KING WHO CROSSED HIS PATH.
PARASHURAMA HAS DONE A GOOD THING BY KILLING ALL THE EVIL AND GREEDY KINGS.
BUT HE IS ALSO KILLING THE GOOD ONES.
PARASHURAMA HAS GONE AROUND THE WORLD THREE TIMES AND KILLED TWENTY GENERATIONS OF KINGS.
HE HAS TO BE STOPPED. THERE IS SO MUCH UNREST ON EARTH WITHOUT ANY RULERS.
PARASHURAMA, YOU HAVE DESTROYED ALL THE EVIL KINGS, BUT YOU HAVE ALSO COMMITTED A SIN BY KILLING. CLEANSE YOURSELF OF THIS SIN BY PERFORMING AN ASHWAMEDHA YAGYA.

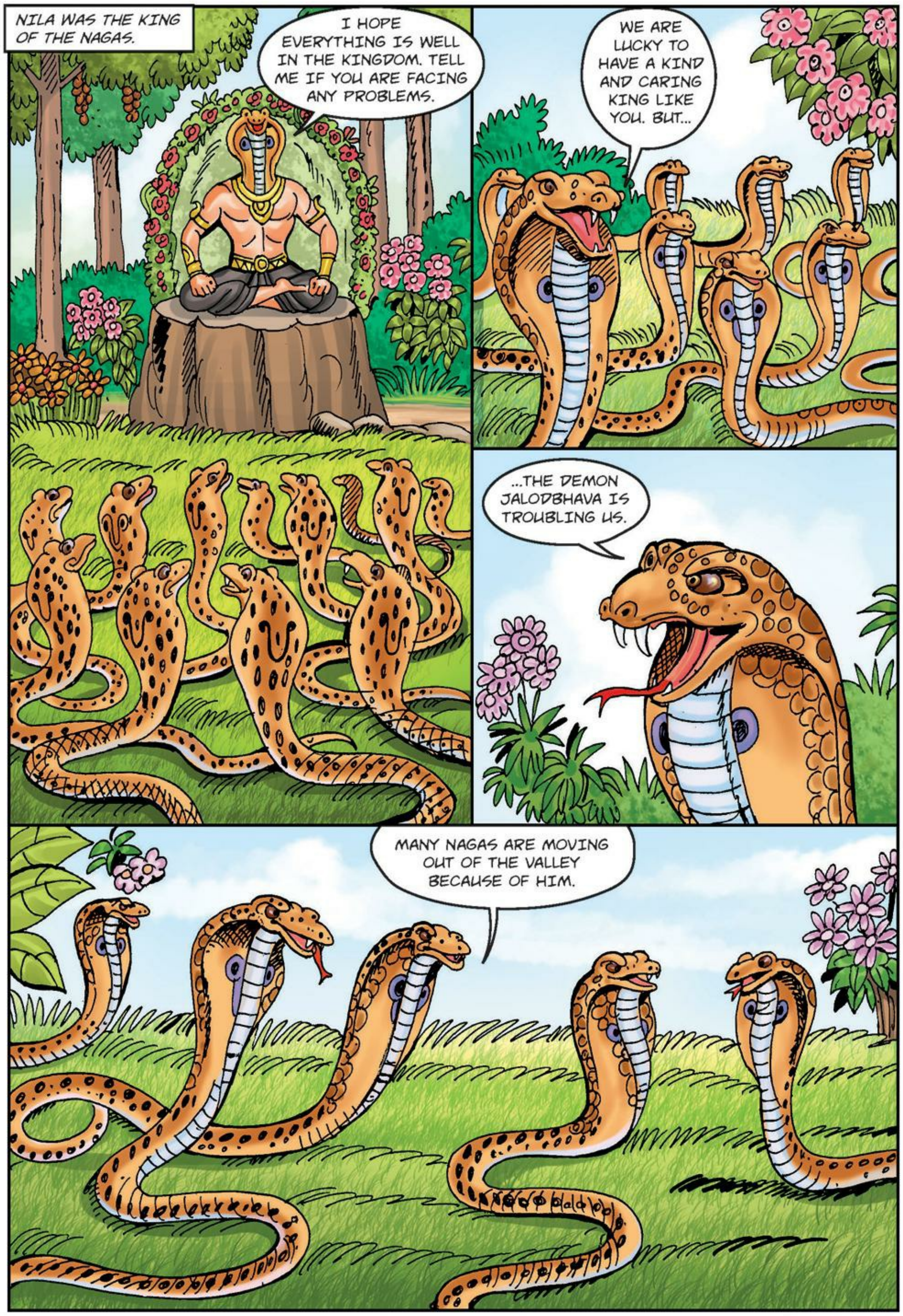

BUT I HAVE NOTHING TO DONATE AT THE YAGYA.
THE ENTIRE EARTH IS YOURS BECAUSE YOU HAVE KILLED EVERY KING ON IT.
PARASHURAMA AGREED TO PERFORM THE YAGYA.
I CANNOT TRUST PARASHURAMA TO STOP THE VIOLENCE AFTER THE YAGYA.
HOLY ONE, TO WHOM SHOULD I GIVE ALL MY LAND?
KASHYAPA HAD A PLAN TO SAVE THE EARTH FROM PARASHURAMA'S ANGER.

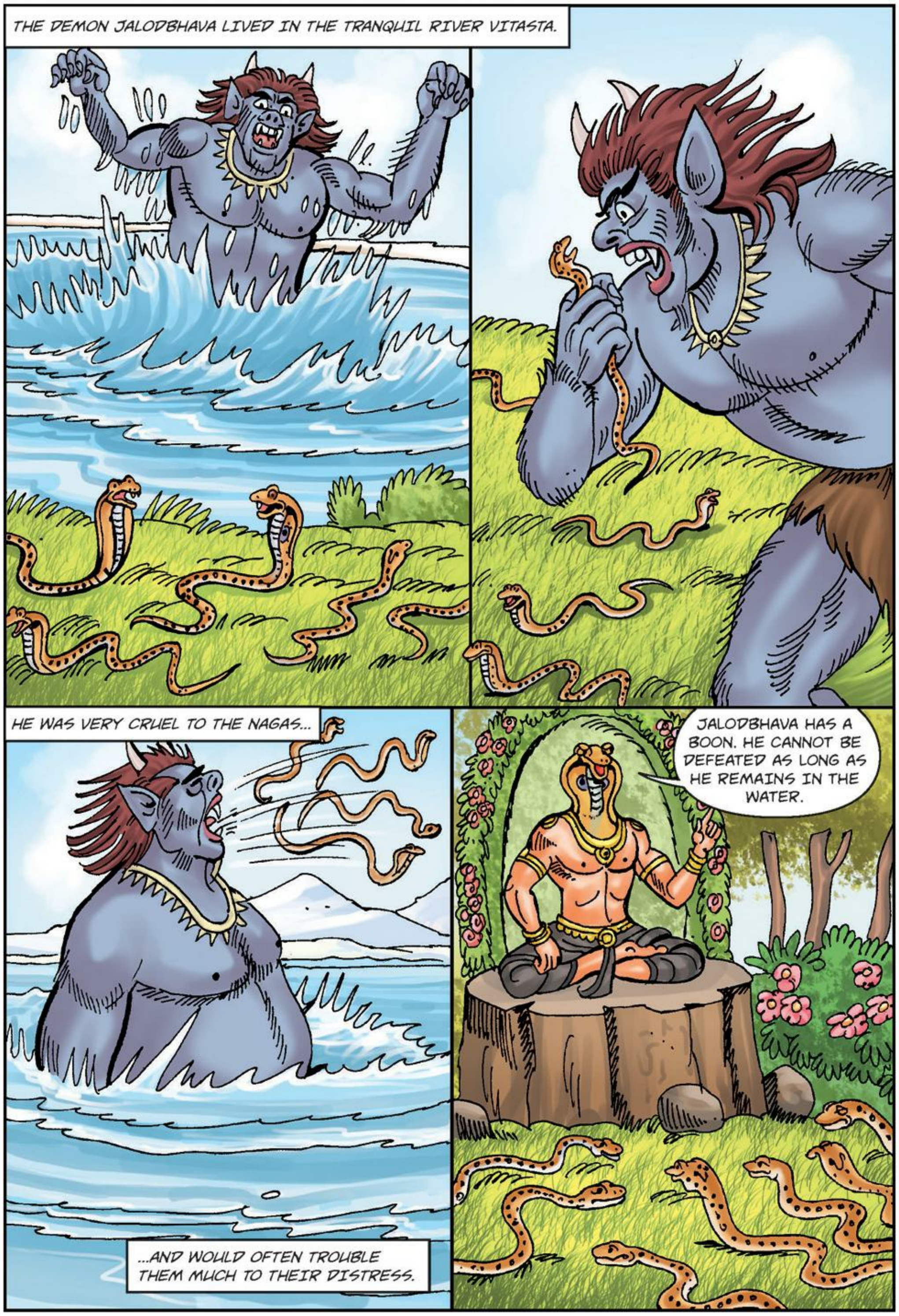

YOU CAN DONATE IT TO ME.
I WILL MAKE SURE PARASHURAMA STAYS AWAY FROM THE PEOPLE OF EARTH.
I HEREBY DONATE ALL THE LAND THAT I HAVE CONQUERED TO YOU.
PARASHURAMA, NOW THAT THE WHOLE EARTH IS MINE, I FORBID YOU FROM LIVING HERE.
FORBID ME!

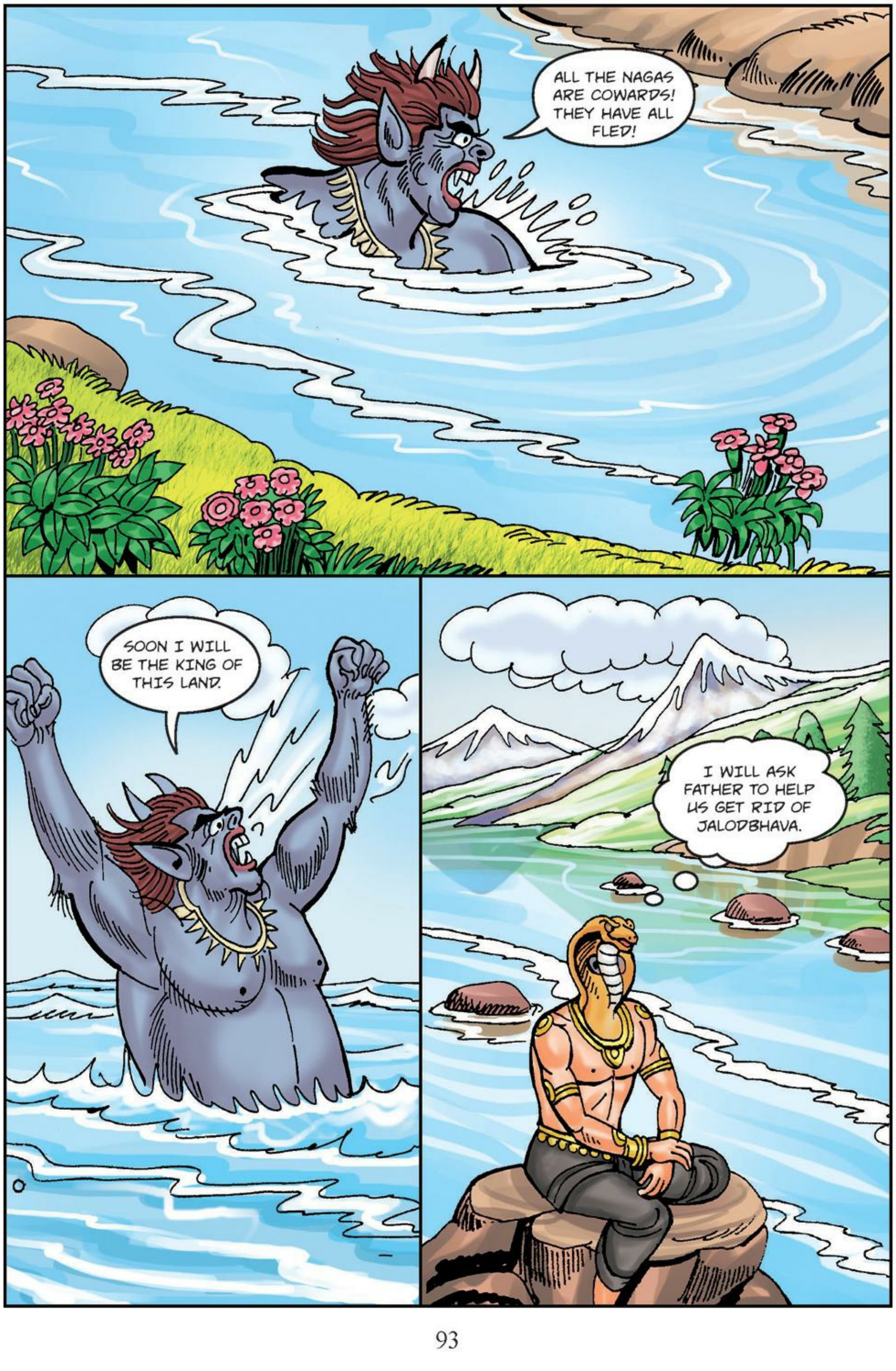

I SHALL OBEY YOU. BUT WHY AM I BEING EXILED?
YOU ARE A BRAHMIN. YOU SHOULD BE INVOLVED IN PENANCE AND PRAYERS, NOT WITH WEAPONS AND KILLING.
BUT I HAVE THE BOON OF IMMORTALITY. SO I WILL NEED A PLACE TO LIVE.
YOU WILL LIVE ON MOUNT MAHENDRA. YOU CAN TRAVEL ALL OVER THE EARTH DURING THE DAY, BUT YOU MUST LEAVE BY NIGHTFALL.
PARASHURAMA OBEDIENTLY WENT AWAY TO MOUNT MAHENDRA.
MY WORK IS DONE. PARASHURAMA WILL NOT HAVE ENOUGH TIME ON EARTH TO CAUSE HARM TO KINGS.

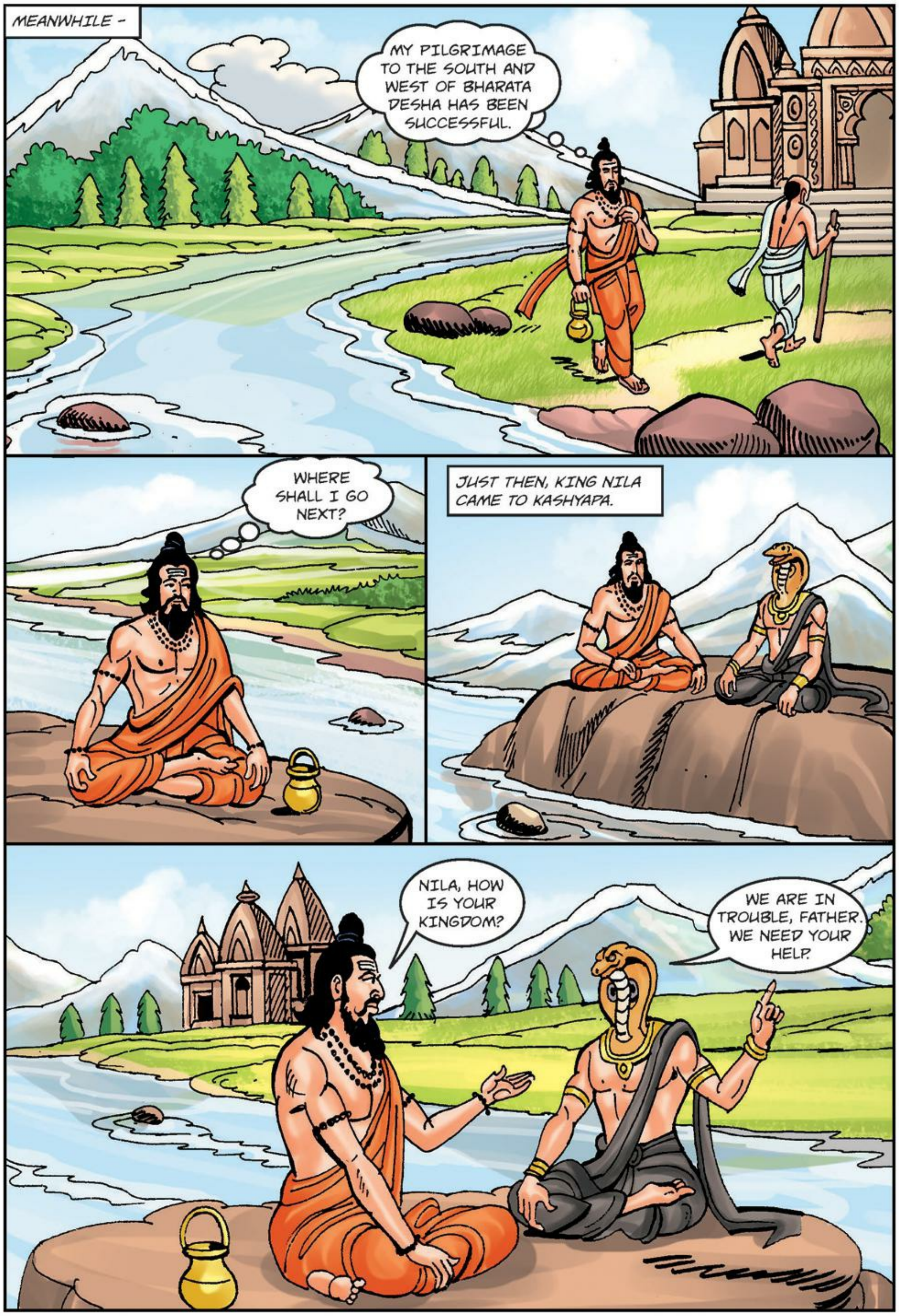
Kashmira gets named after Kashyapa

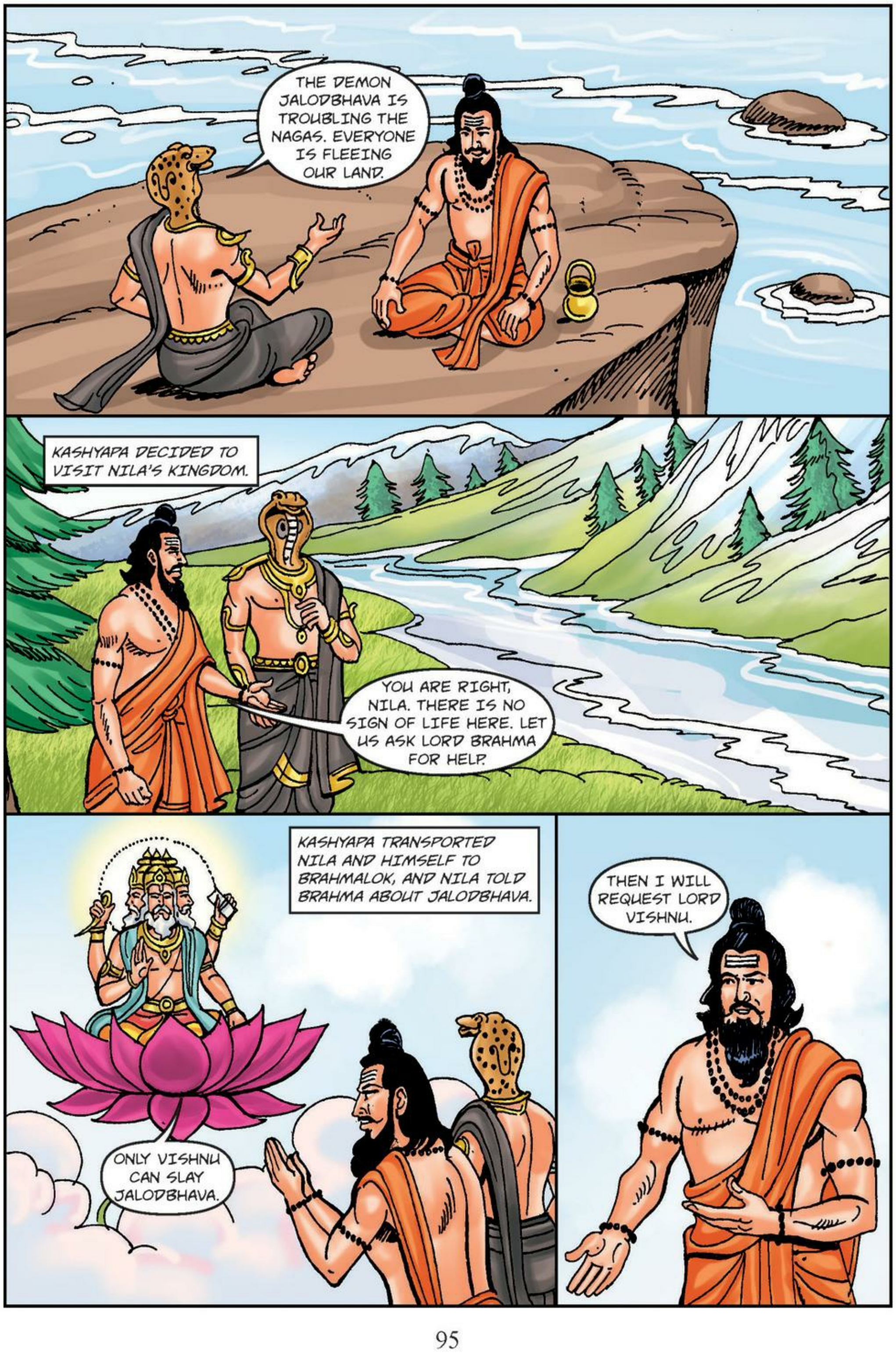

SATI DESHA WAS A LUSH VALLEY WITH A BEAUTIFUL RIVER. IT WAS SO PLEASANT, EVEN GODS CAME DOWN FROM HEAVEN TO RELAX THERE.
THE VALLEY IS SO ABUNDANT WITH FLOWERS, FRUITS, AND CROPS.
THIS IS HEAVEN ON EARTH.
RIVER VITASTA FLOWED DOWN THE HIMALAYA MOUNTAINS.
ON THE RIVER BANK LIVED THE NAGAS, THE SERPENT SONS OF KADRU AND KASHYAPA.

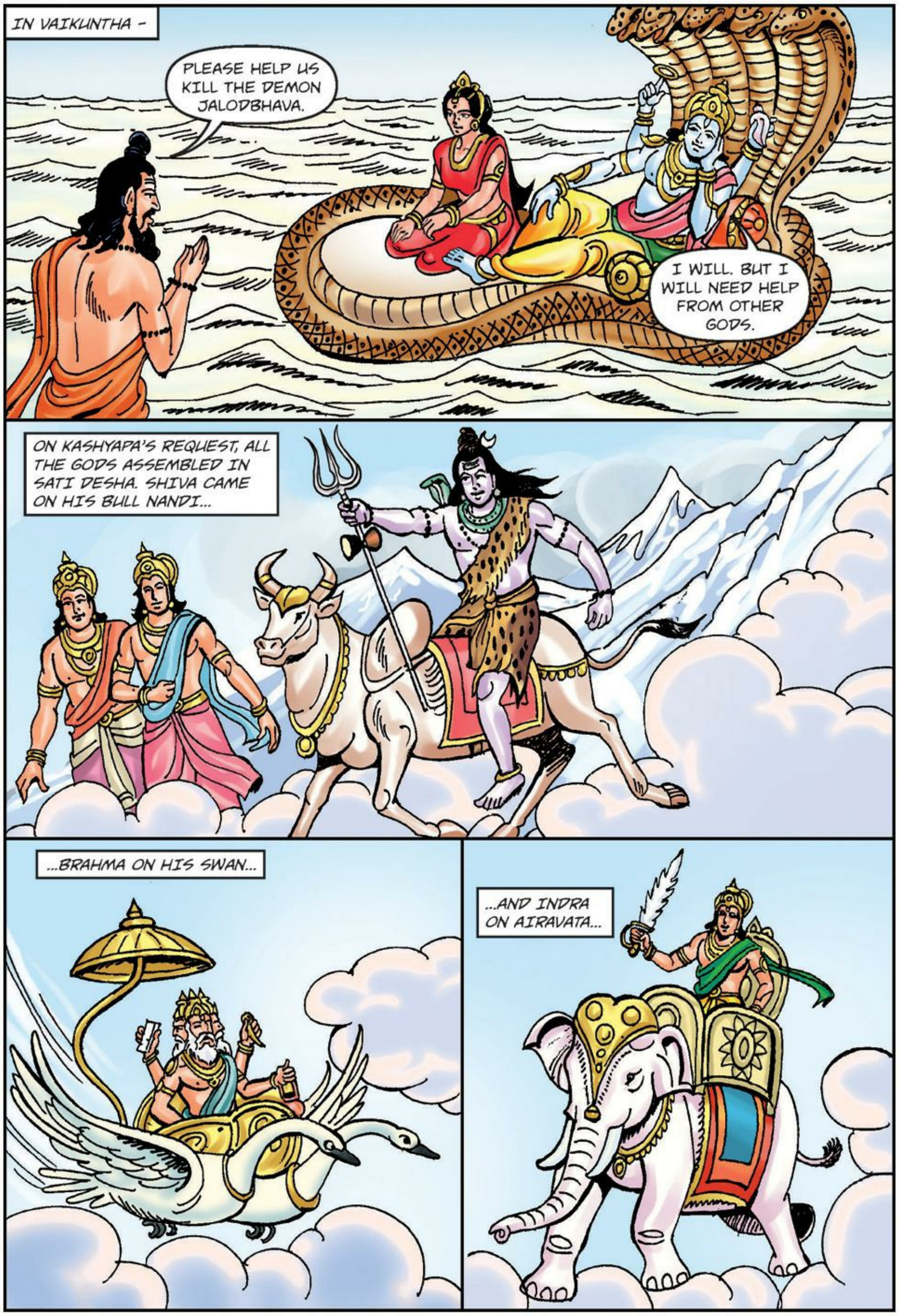

NILA WAS THE KING OF THE NAGAS.
I HOPE EVERYTHING IS WELL IN THE KINGDOM. TELL ME IF YOU ARE FACING ANY PROBLEMS.
WE ARE LUCKY TO HAVE A KIND AND CARING KING LIKE YOU. BUT...
...THE DEMON JALODBHAVA IS TROUBLING US.
MANY NAGAS ARE MOVING OUT OF THE VALLEY BECAUSE OF HIM.

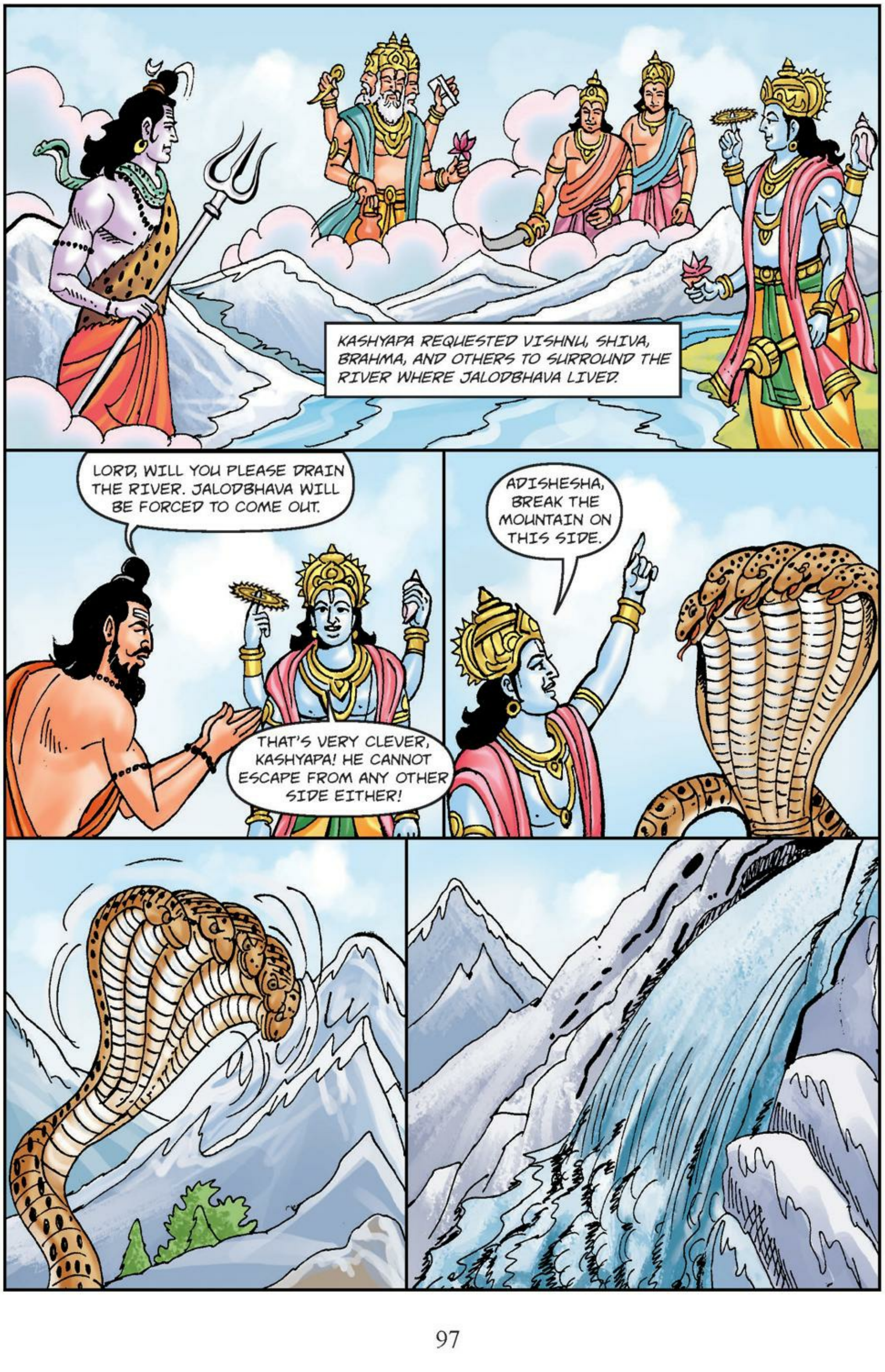

THE DEMON JALODBHAVA LIVED IN THE TRANQUIL RIVER VITASTA.
HE WAS VERY CRUEL TO THE NAGAS...
...AND WOULD OFTEN TROUBLE THEM MUCH TO THEIR DISTRESS.
JALODBHAVA HAS A BOON. HE CANNOT BE DEFEATED AS LONG AS HE REMAINS IN THE WATER.

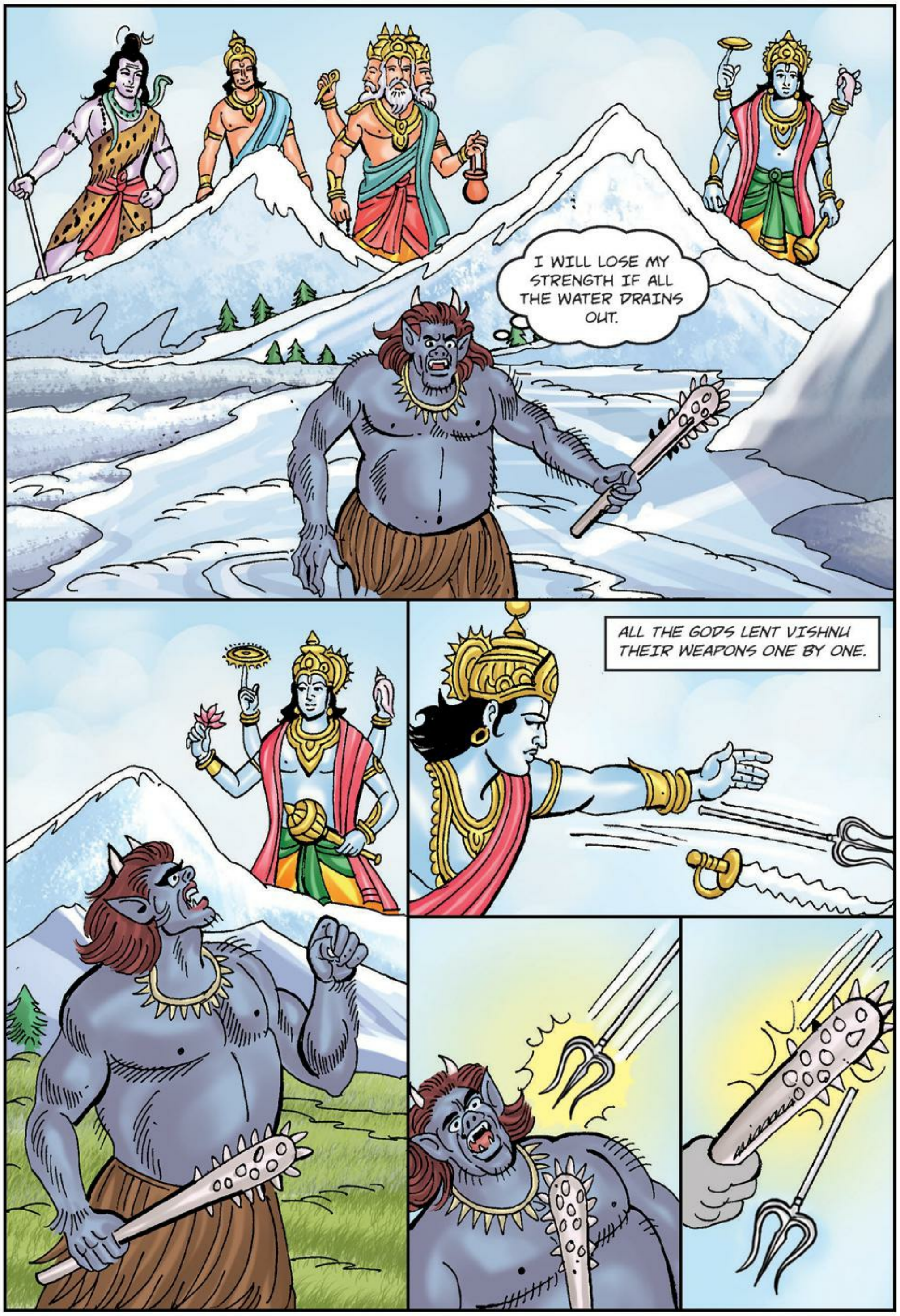

ALL THE NAGAS ARE COWARDS! THEY HAVE ALL FLED!
SOON I WILL BE THE KING OF THIS LAND.
I WILL ASK FATHER TO HELP US GET RID OF JALODBHAVA.

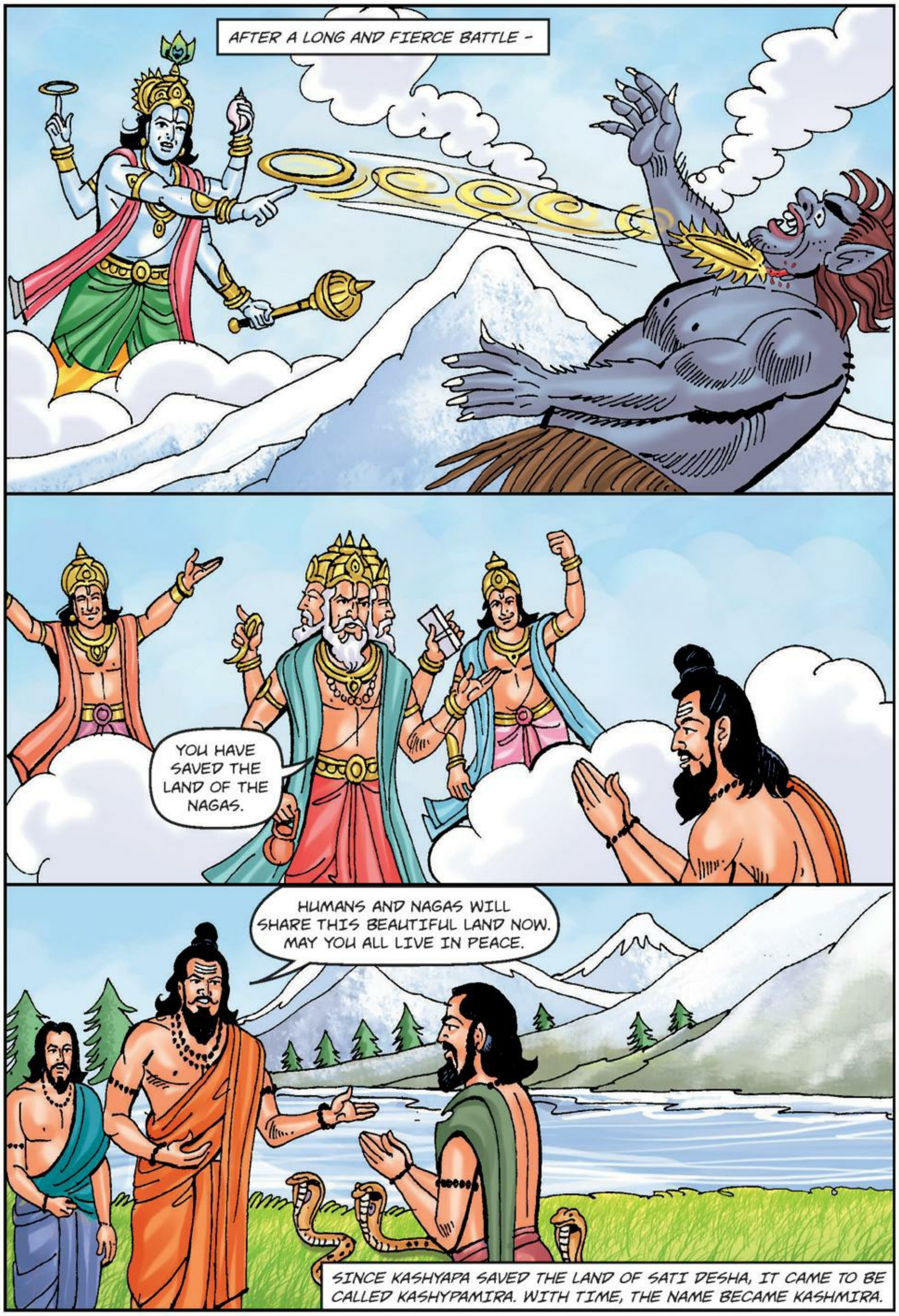

MEANWHILE -
MY PILGRIMAGE TO THE SOUTH AND WEST OF BHARATA DESHA HAS BEEN SUCCESSFUL.
WHERE SHALL I GO NEXT?
JUST THEN, KING NILA CAME TO KASHYAPA.
NILA, HOW IS YOUR KINGDOM?
WE ARE IN TROUBLE, FATHER. WE NEED YOUR HELP.


THE DEMON JALODBHAVA IS TROUBLING THE NAGAS. EVERYONE IS FLEEING OUR LAND.
KASHYAPA DECIDED TO VISIT NILA'S KINGDOM.
YOU ARE RIGHT, NILA. THERE IS NO SIGN OF LIFE HERE. LET US ASK LORD BRAHMA FOR HELP.
KASHYAPA TRANSPORTED NILA AND HIMSELF TO BRAHMALOK, AND NILA TOLD BRAHMA ABOUT JALODBHAVA.
ONLY VISHNU CAN SLAY JALODBHAVA.
THEN I WILL REQUEST LORD VISHNU.

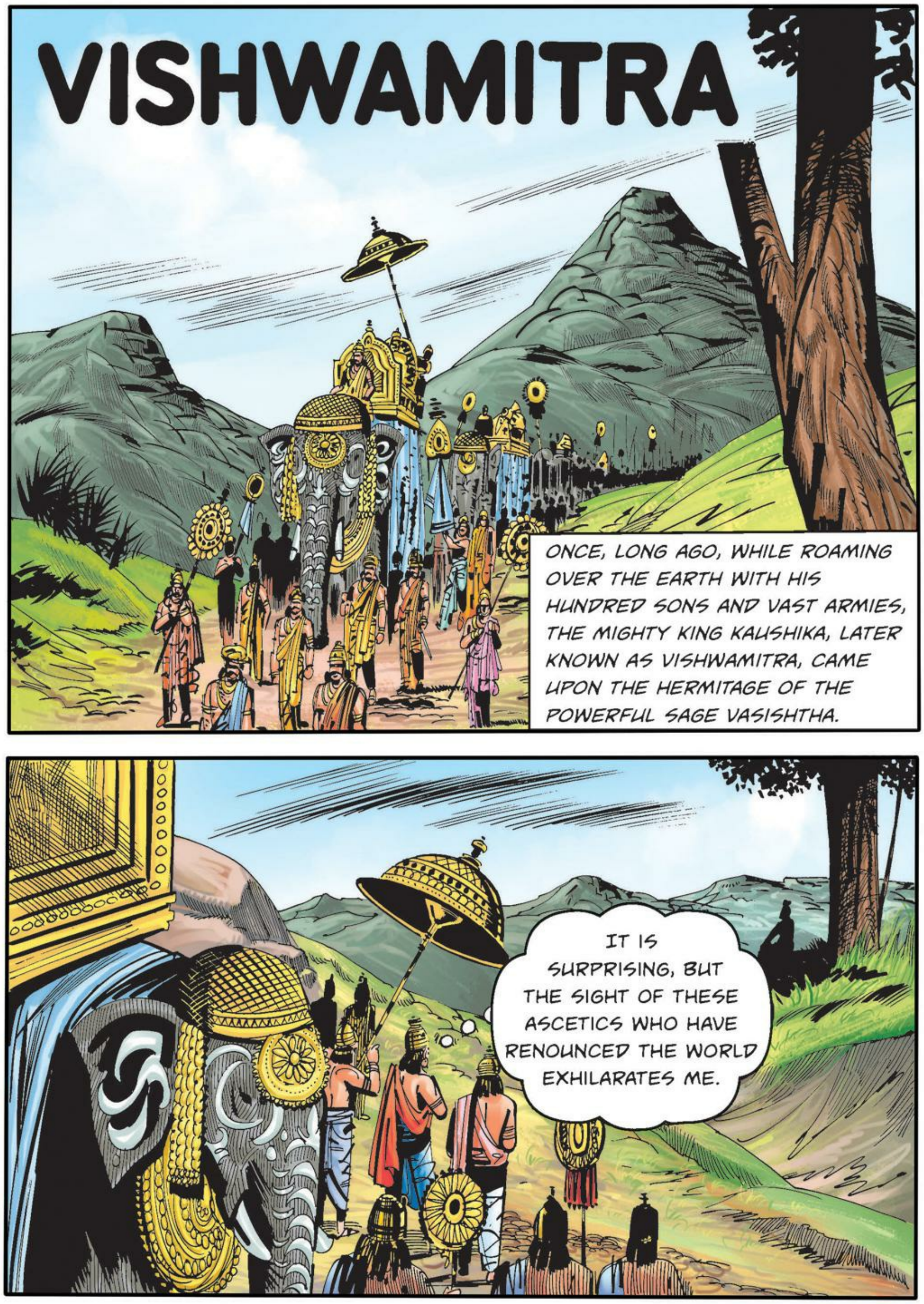

IN VAIKUNTHA –
PLEASE HELP US KILL THE DEMON JALODBHAVA.
I WILL. BUT I WILL NEED HELP FROM OTHER GODS.
ON KASHYAPA'S REQUEST, ALL THE GODS ASSEMBLED IN SATI DESHA. SHIVA CAME ON HIS BULL NANDI...
...BRAHMA ON HIS SWAN...
...AND INDRA ON AIRAVATA...

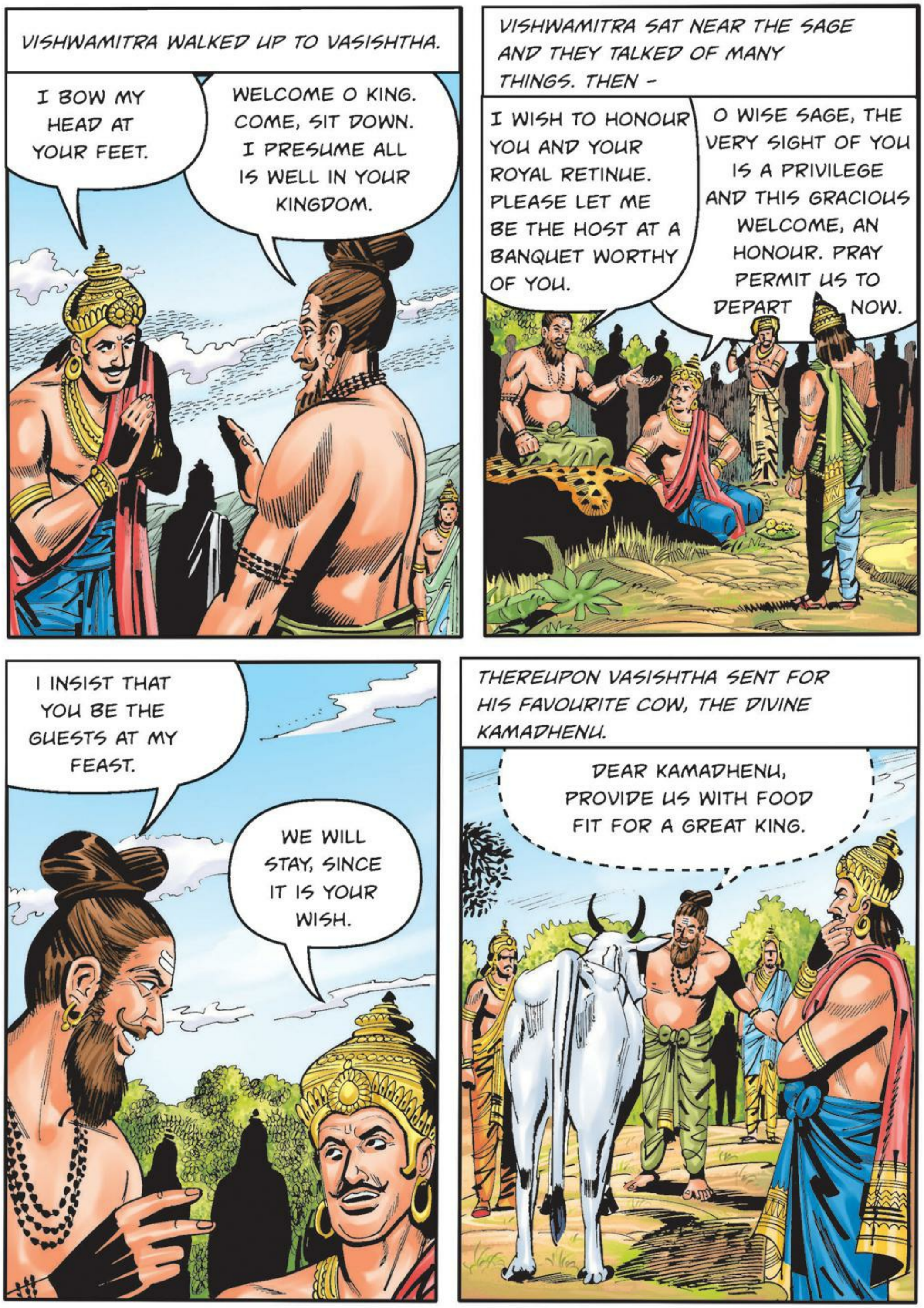

KASHYAPA REQUESTED VISHNU, SHIVA, BRAHMA, AND OTHERS TO SURROUND THE RIVER WHERE JALODBHAVA LIVED.
LORD, WILL YOU PLEASE DRAIN THE RIVER. JALODBHAVA WILL BE FORCED TO COME OUT.
THAT'S VERY CLEVER, KASHYAPA! HE CANNOT ESCAPE FROM ANY OTHER SIDE EITHER!
ADISHESHA, BREAK THE MOUNTAIN ON THIS SIDE.

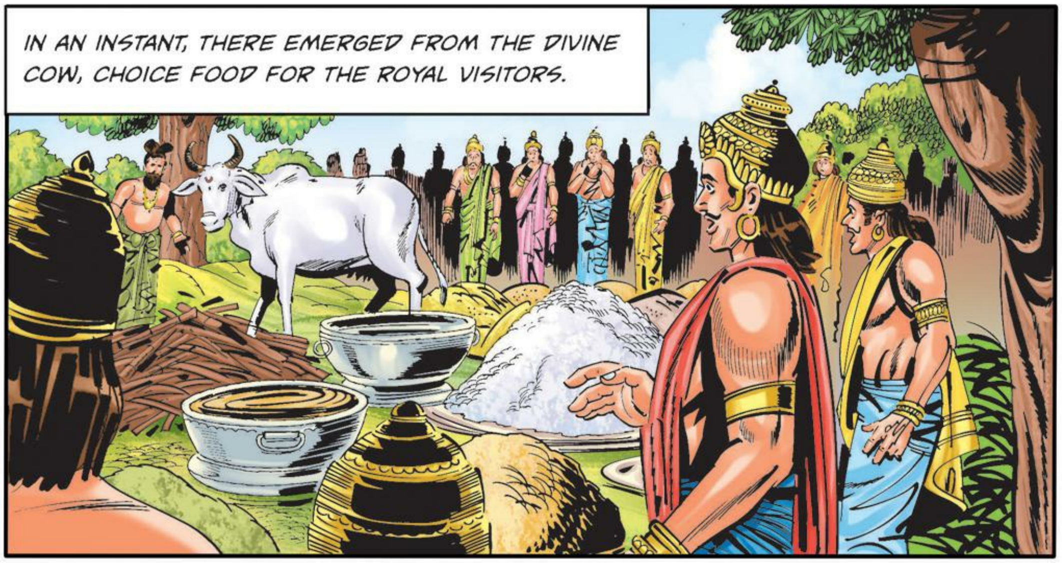

I WILL LOSE MY STRENGTH IF ALL THE WATER DRAINS OUT.
ALL THE GODS LENT VISHNU THEIR WEAPONS ONE BY ONE.

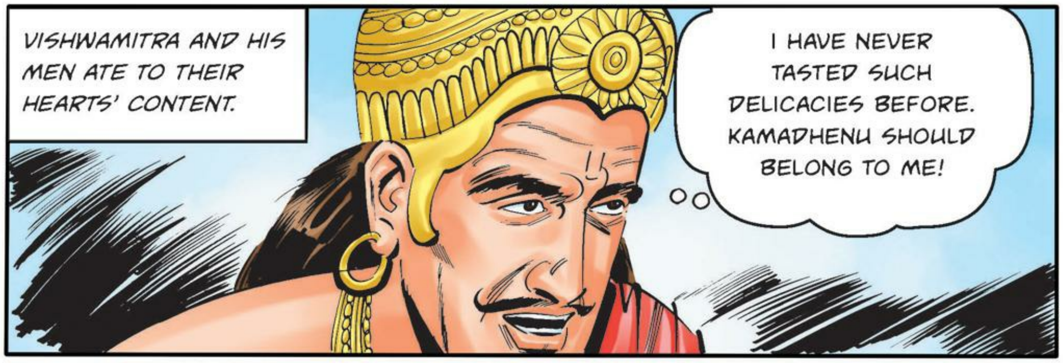

AFTER A LONG AND FIERCE BATTLE -
YOU HAVE SAVED THE LAND OF THE NAGAS.
HUMANS AND NAGAS WILL SHARE THIS BEAUTIFUL LAND NOW. MAY YOU ALL LIVE IN PEACE.
SINCE KASHYAPA SAVED THE LAND OF SATI DESHA, IT CAME TO BE CALLED KASHYPAMIRA. WITH TIME, THE NAME BECAME KASHMIRA.

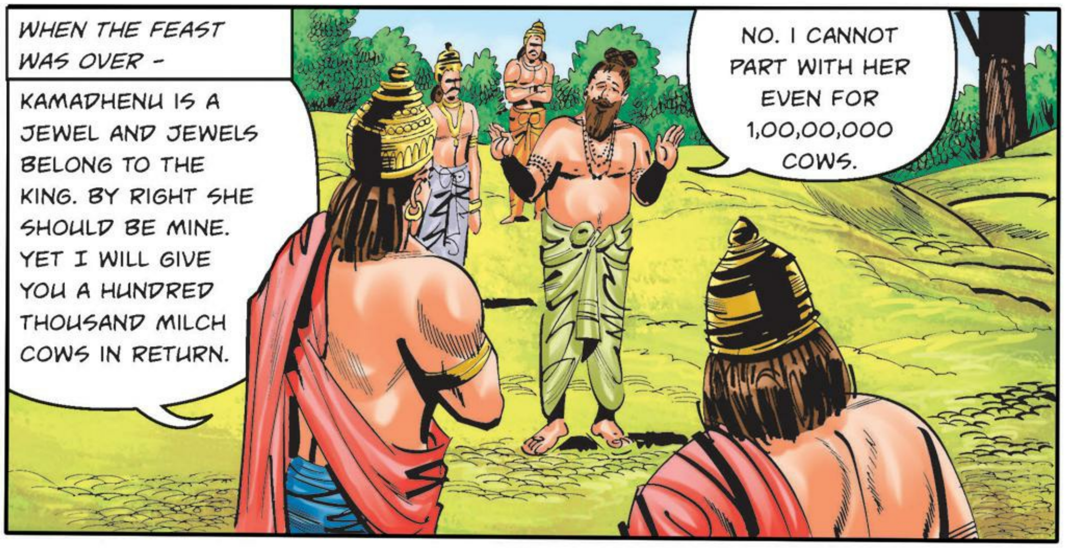
VISHWAMITRA

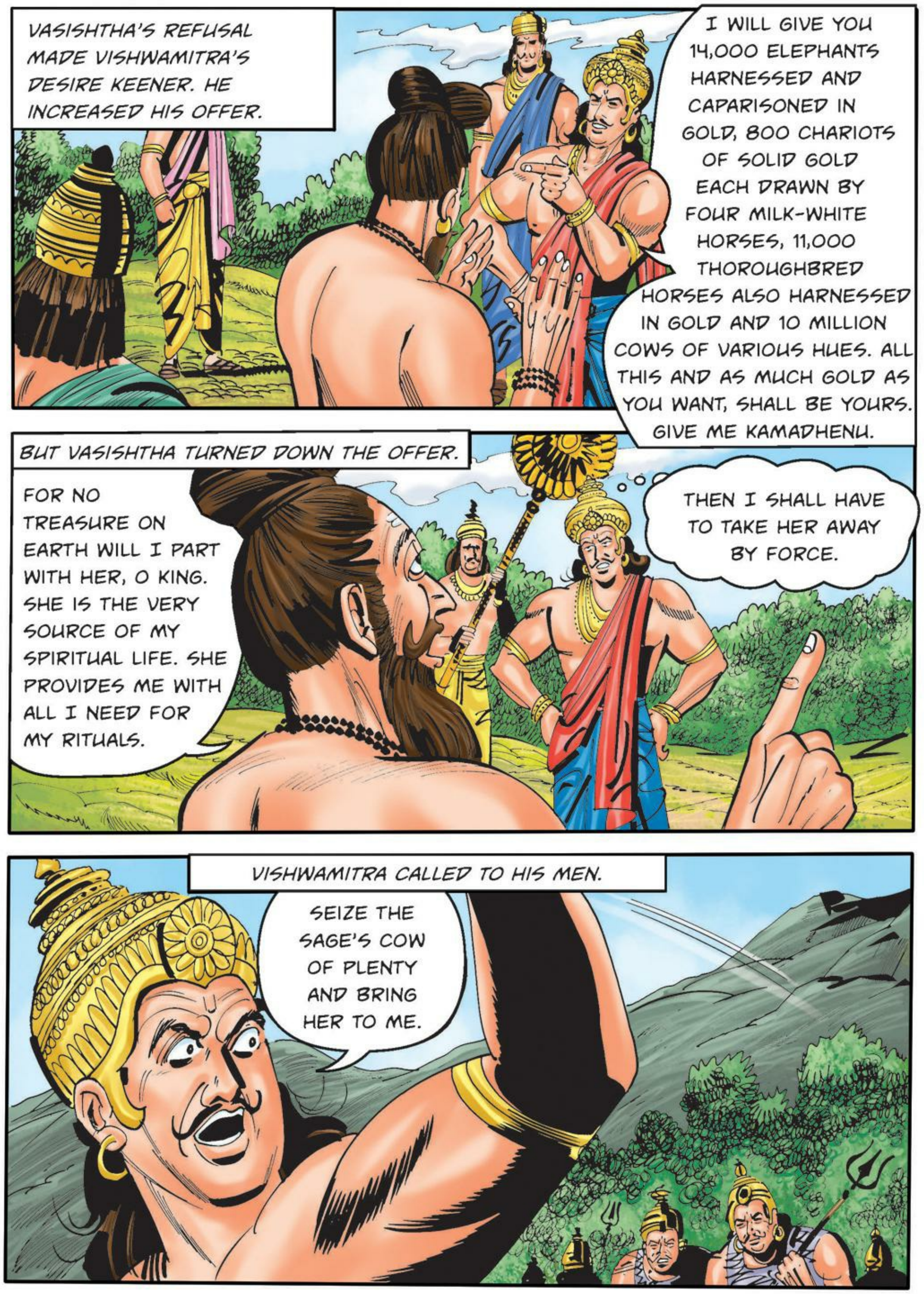

ONCE, LONG AGO, WHILE ROAMING OVER THE EARTH WITH HIS HUNDRED SONS AND VAST ARMIES, THE MIGHTY KING KAUSHIKA, LATER KNOWN AS VISHWAMITRA, CAME UPON THE HERMITAGE OF THE POWERFUL SAGE VASISHTHA.
IT IS SURPRISING, BUT THE SIGHT OF THESE ASCETICS WHO HAVE RENOUNCED THE WORLD EXHILARATES ME.

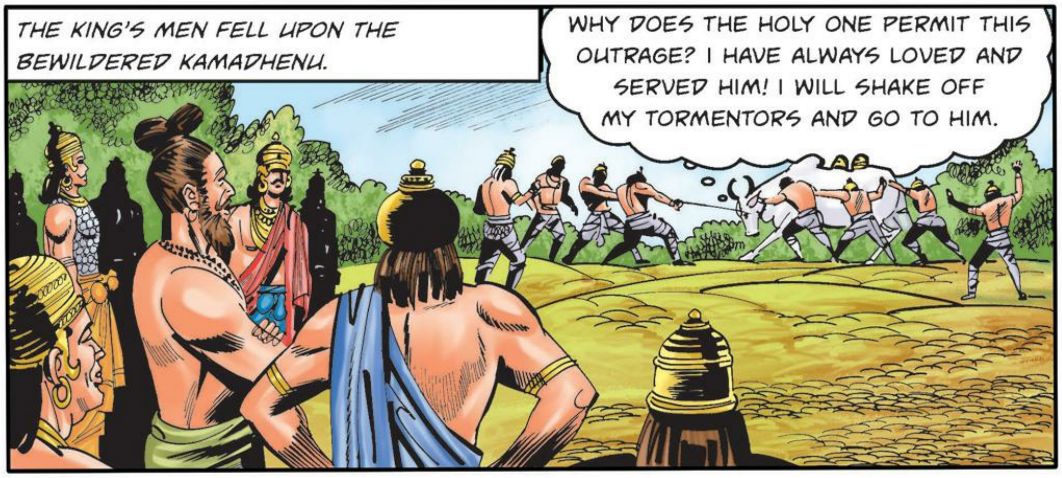

VISHWAMITRA WALKED UP TO VASISHTHA.
I BOW MY HEAD AT YOUR FEET.
WELCOME O KING. COME, SIT DOWN. I PRESUME ALL IS WELL IN YOUR KINGDOM.
VISHWAMITRA SAT NEAR THE SAGE AND THEY TALKED OF MANY THINGS. THEN –
I WISH TO HONOUR YOU AND YOUR ROYAL RETINUE. PLEASE LET ME BE THE HOST AT A BANQUET WORTHY OF YOU.
O WISE SAGE, THE VERY SIGHT OF YOU IS A PRIVILEGE AND THIS GRACIOUS WELCOME, AN HONOUR. PRAY PERMIT US TO DEPART NOW.
I INSIST THAT YOU BE THE GUESTS AT MY FEAST.
WE WILL STAY, SINCE IT IS YOUR WISH.
THEREUPON VASISHTHA SENT FOR HIS FAVOURITE COW, THE DIVINE KAMADHENU.
DEAR KAMADHENU, PROVIDE US WITH FOOD FIT FOR A GREAT KING.

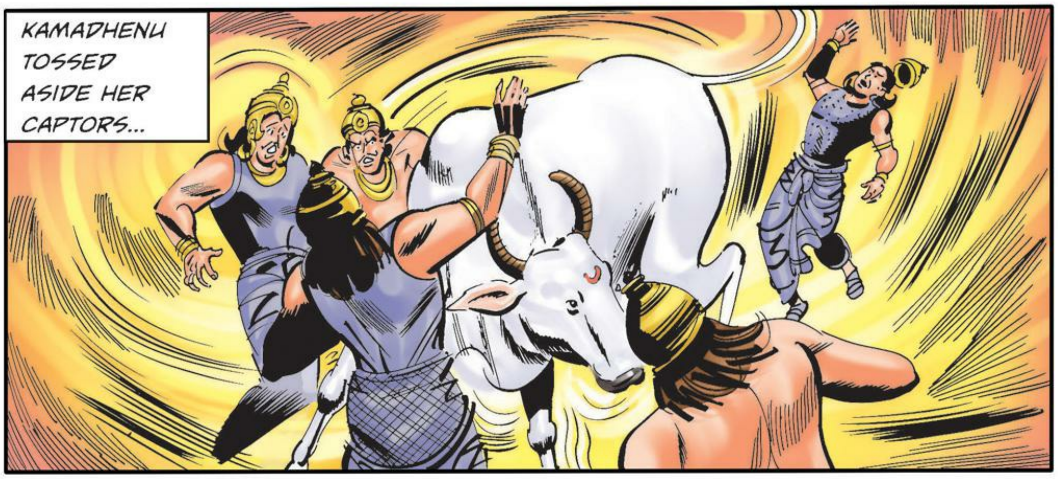

IN AN INSTANT, THERE EMERGED FROM THE DIVINE COW, CHOICE FOOD FOR THE ROYAL VISITORS.

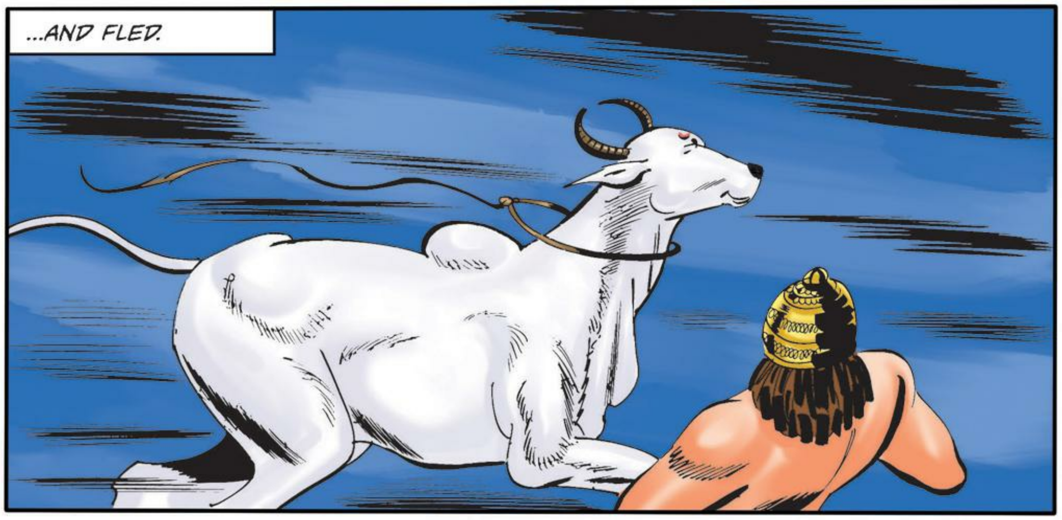

VISHWAMITRA AND HIS MEN ATE TO THEIR HEARTS' CONTENT.
I HAVE NEVER TASTED SUCH DELICACIES BEFORE. KAMADHENU SHOULD BELONG TO ME!

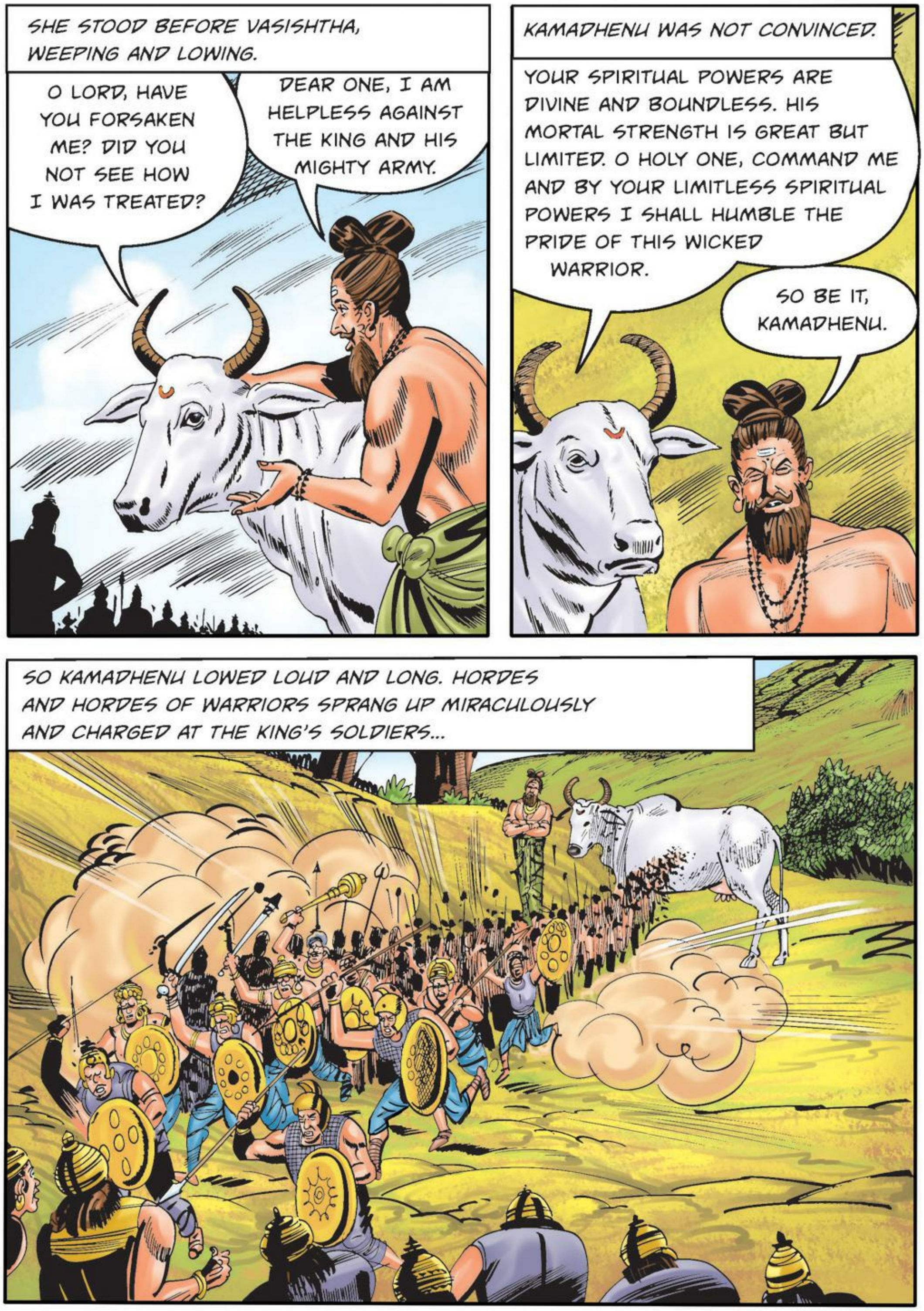

WHEN THE FEAST WAS OVER -
KAMADHENU IS A JEWEL AND JEWELS BELONG TO THE KING. BY RIGHT SHE SHOULD BE MINE. YET I WILL GIVE YOU A HUNDRED THOUSAND MILCH COWS IN RETURN.
NO. I CANNOT PART WITH HER EVEN FOR 1,00,00,000 COWS.

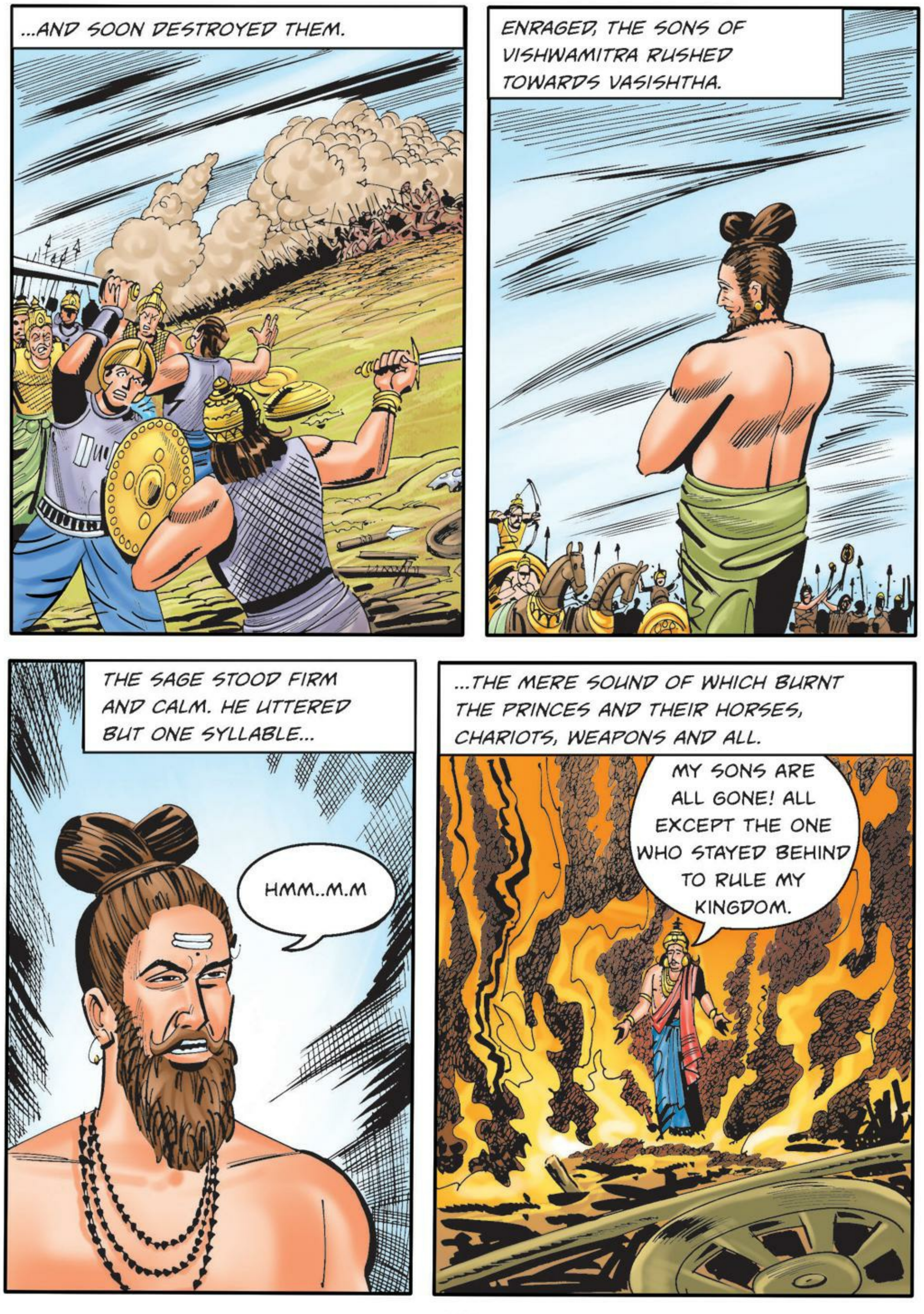

VASISHTHA'S REFUSAL MADE VISHWAMITRA'S DESIRE KEENER. HE INCREASED HIS OFFER.
I WILL GIVE YOU 14,000 ELEPHANTS HARNESSED AND CAPARISONED IN GOLD, 800 CHARIOTS OF SOLID GOLD EACH DRAWN BY FOUR MILK-WHITE HORSES, 11,000 THOROUGHBRED HORSES ALSO HARNESSED IN GOLD AND 10 MILLION COWS OF VARIOUS HUES. ALL THIS AND AS MUCH GOLD AS YOU WANT, SHALL BE YOURS. GIVE ME KAMADHENU.
BUT VASISHTHA TURNED DOWN THE OFFER.
FOR NO TREASURE ON EARTH WILL I PART WITH HER, O KING. SHE IS THE VERY SOURCE OF MY SPIRITUAL LIFE. SHE PROVIDES ME WITH ALL I NEED FOR MY RITUALS.
THEN I SHALL HAVE TO TAKE HER AWAY BY FORCE.
VISHWAMITRA CALLED TO HIS MEN.
SEIZE THE SAGE'S COW OF PLENTY AND BRING HER TO ME.


THE KING'S MEN FELL UPON THE BEWILDERED KAMADHENU.
WHY DOES THE HOLY ONE PERMIT THIS OUTRAGE? I HAVE ALWAYS LOVED AND SERVED HIM! I WILL SHAKE OFF MY TORMENTORS AND GO TO HIM.

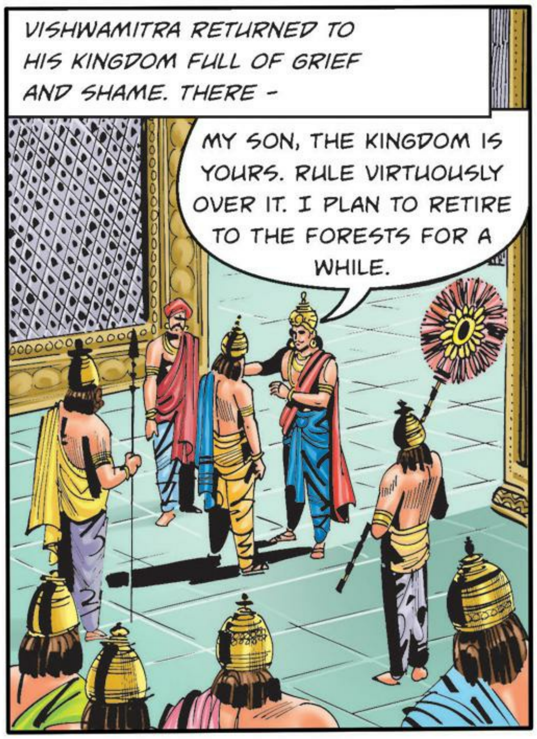

KAMADHENU TOSSED ASIDE HER CAPTORS...


...AND FLED.

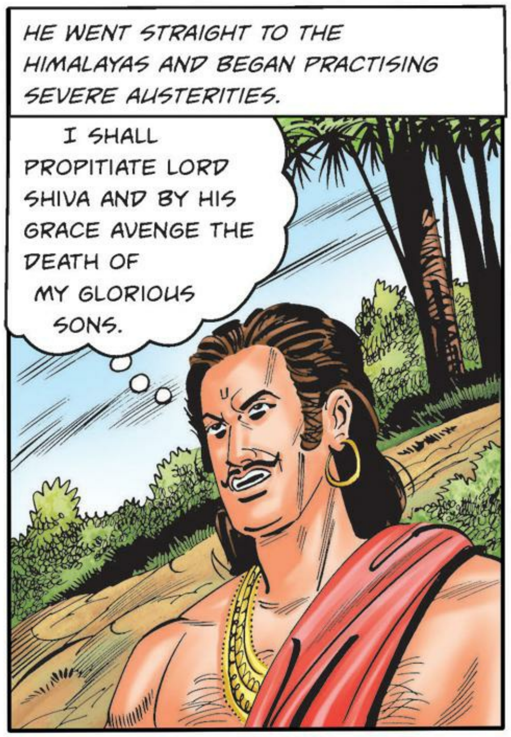

SHE STOOD BEFORE VASISHTHA, WEEPING AND LOWING.
O LORD, HAVE YOU FORSAKEN ME? DID YOU NOT SEE HOW I WAS TREATED?
DEAR ONE, I AM HELPLESS AGAINST THE KING AND HIS MIGHTY ARMY.
KAMADHENU WAS NOT CONVINCED.
YOUR SPIRITUAL POWERS ARE DIVINE AND BOUNDLESS. HIS MORTAL STRENGTH IS GREAT BUT LIMITED. O HOLY ONE, COMMAND ME AND BY YOUR LIMITLESS SPIRITUAL POWERS I SHALL HUMBLE THE PRIDE OF THIS WICKED WARRIOR.
SO BE IT, KAMADHENU.
SO KAMADHENU LOWED LOUD AND LONG. HORDES AND HORDES OF WARRIORS SPRANG UP MIRACULOUSLY AND CHARGED AT THE KING'S SOLDIERS...


...AND SOON DESTROYED THEM.
ENRAGED, THE SONS OF VISHWAMITRA RUSHED TOWARDS VASISHTHA.
THE SAGE STOOD FIRM AND CALM. HE UTTERED BUT ONE SYLLABLE...
HMM..M.M
...THE MERE SOUND OF WHICH BURNT THE PRINCES AND THEIR HORSES, CHARIOTS, WEAPONS AND ALL.
MY SONS ARE ALL GONE! ALL EXCEPT THE ONE WHO STAYED BEHIND TO RULE MY KINGDOM.

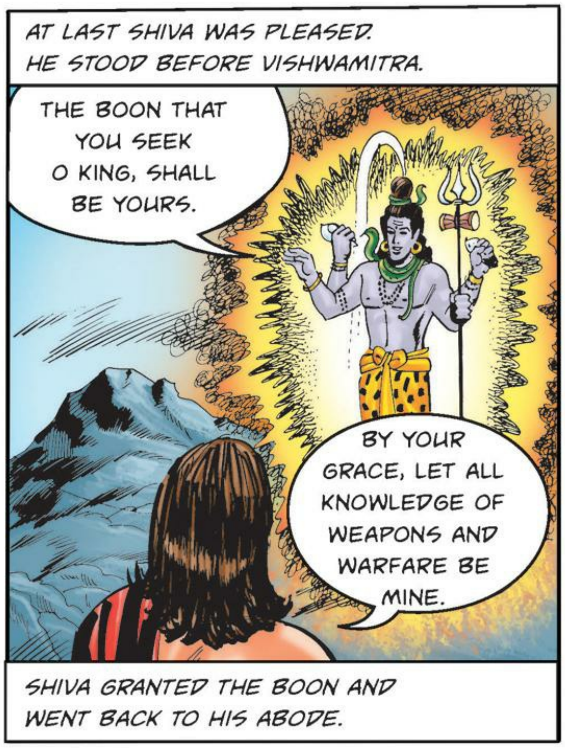
VISHWAMITRA RETURNED TO HIS KINGDOM FULL OF GRIEF AND SHAME. THERE -


MY SON, THE KINGDOM IS YOURS. RULE VIRTUOUSLY OVER IT. I PLAN TO RETIRE TO THE FORESTS FOR A WHILE.

HE WENT STRAIGHT TO THE HIMALAYAS AND BEGAN PRACTISING SEVERE AUSTERITIES.

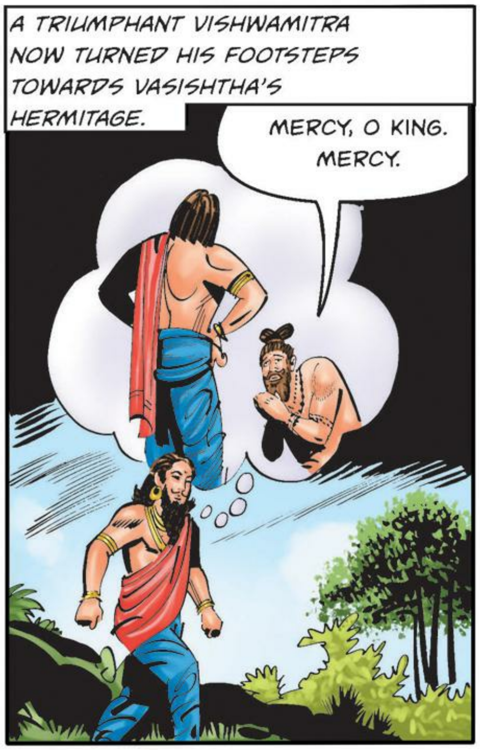

I SHALL PROPITIATE LORD SHIVA AND BY HIS GRACE AVENGE THE DEATH OF MY GLORIOUS SONS.

AT LAST SHIVA WAS PLEASED. HE STOOD BEFORE VISHWAMITRA.

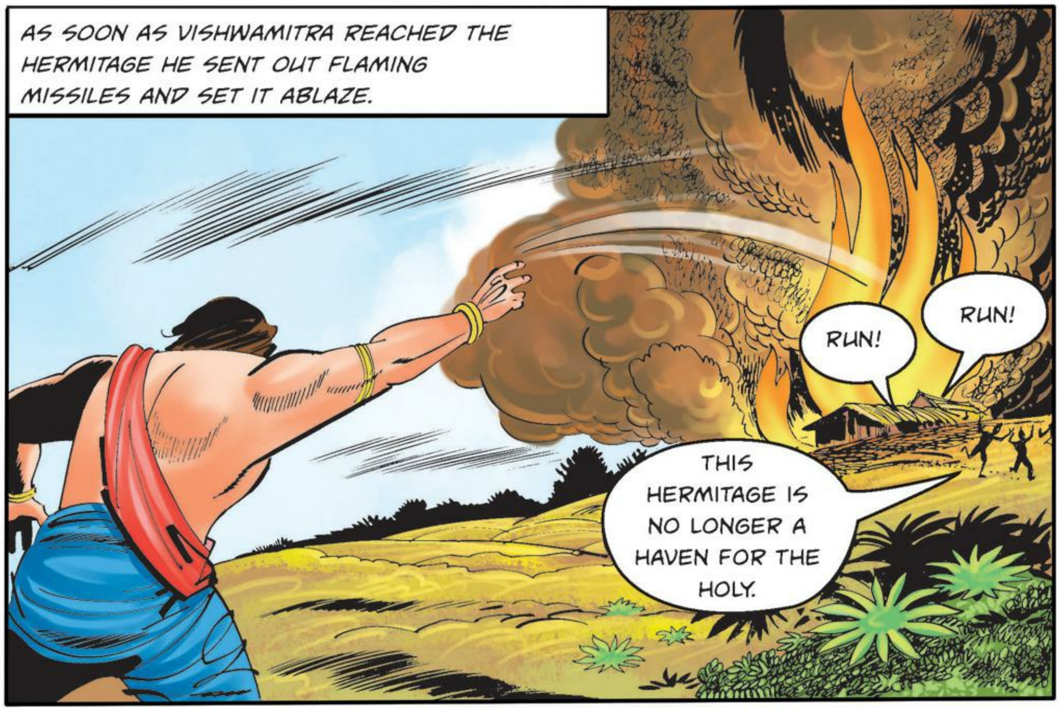

THE BOON THAT YOU SEEK O KING, SHALL BE YOURS.
BY YOUR GRACE, LET ALL KNOWLEDGE OF WEAPONS AND WARFARE BE MINE.

SHIVA GRANTED THE BOON AND WENT BACK TO HIS ABODE.

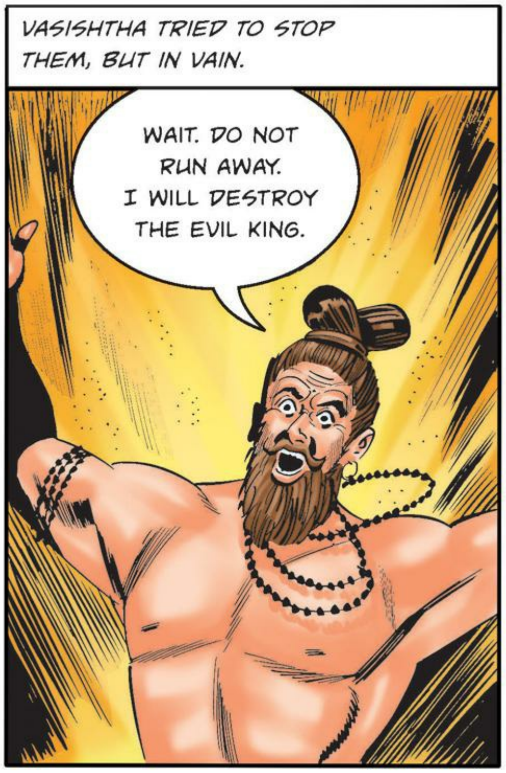
A TRIUMPHANT VISHWAMITRA NOW TURNED HIS FOOTSTEPS TOWARDS VASISHTHA'S HERMITAGE.


MERCY, O KING. MERCY.

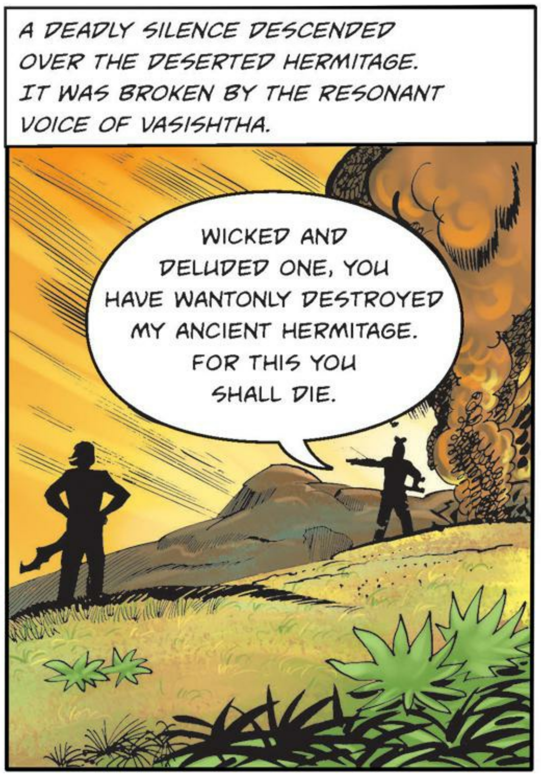
AS SOON AS VISHWAMITRA REACHED THE HERMITAGE HE SENT OUT FLAMING MISSILES AND SET IT ABLAZE.


RUN!
RUN!
THIS HERMITAGE IS NO LONGER A HAVEN FOR THE HOLY.

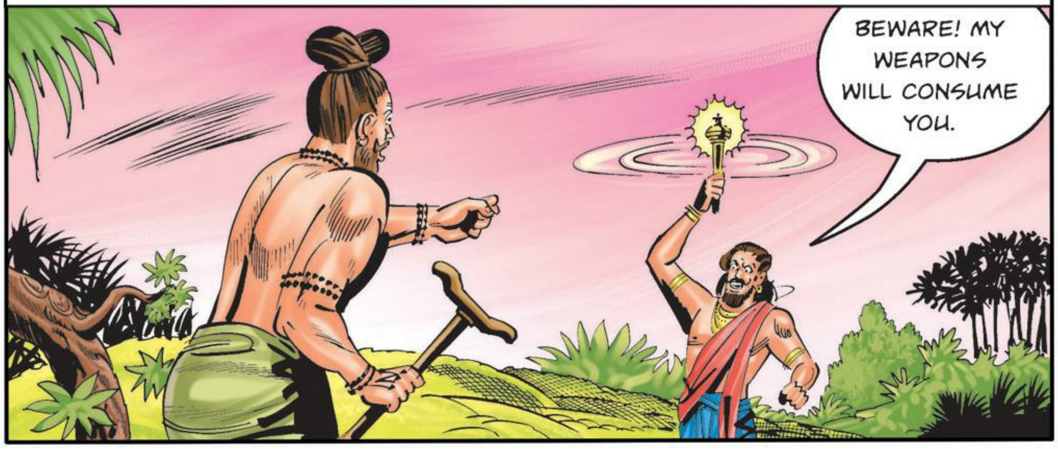
VASISHTHA TRIED TO STOP THEM, BUT IN VAIN.

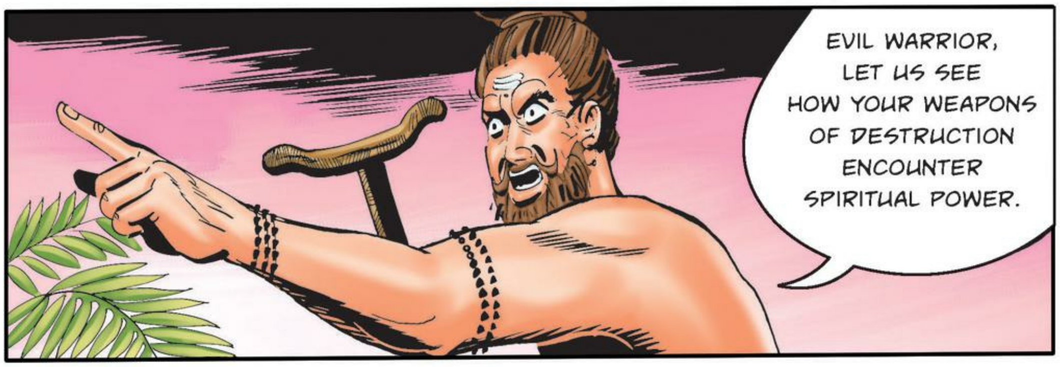

WAIT. DO NOT RUN AWAY. I WILL DESTROY THE EVIL KING.

A DEADLY SILENCE DESCENDED OVER THE DESERTED HERMITAGE. IT WAS BROKEN BY THE RESONANT VOICE OF VASISHTHA.

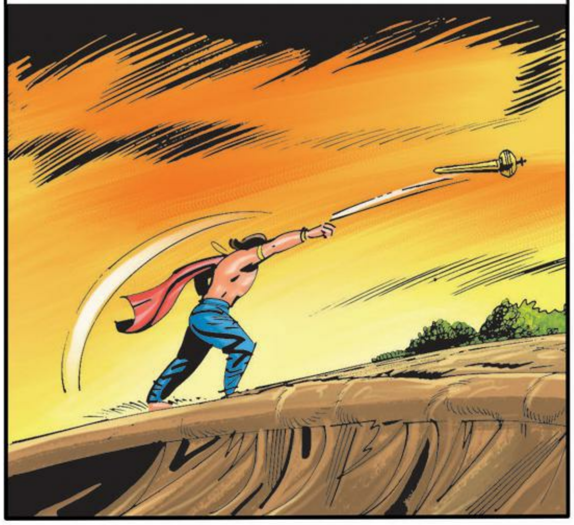

WICKED AND DELUDED ONE, YOU HAVE WANTONLY DESTROYED MY ANCIENT HERMITAGE. FOR THIS YOU SHALL DIE.

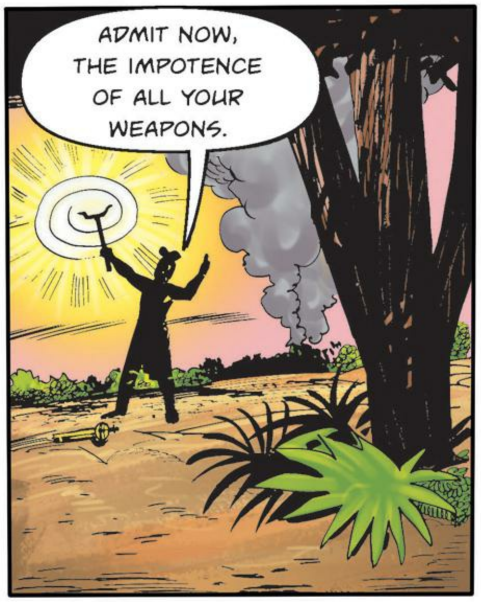
SNATCHING HIS STAFF, HE ADVANCED TOWARDS VISHWAMITRA.

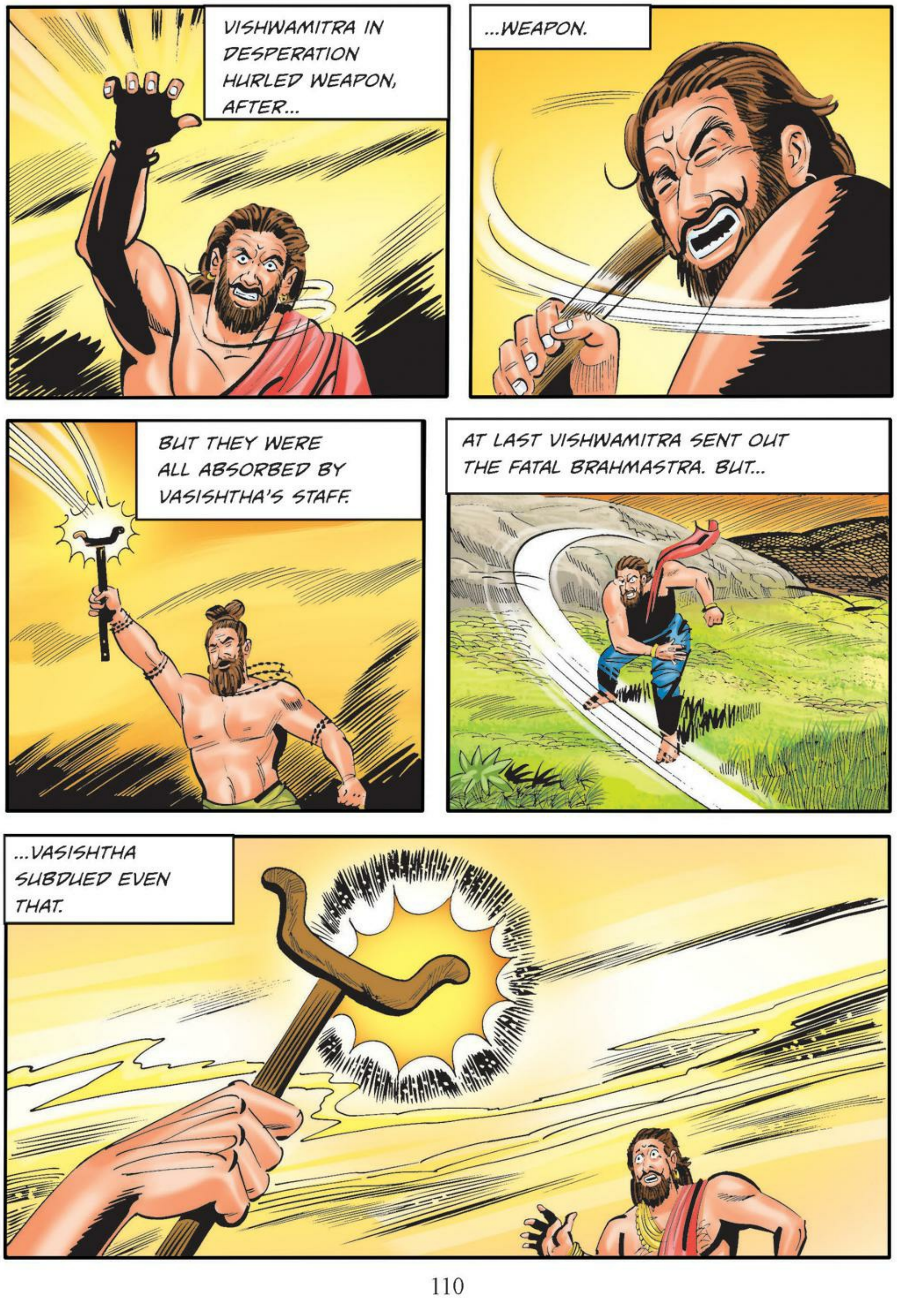

BEWARE! MY WEAPONS WILL CONSUME YOU.

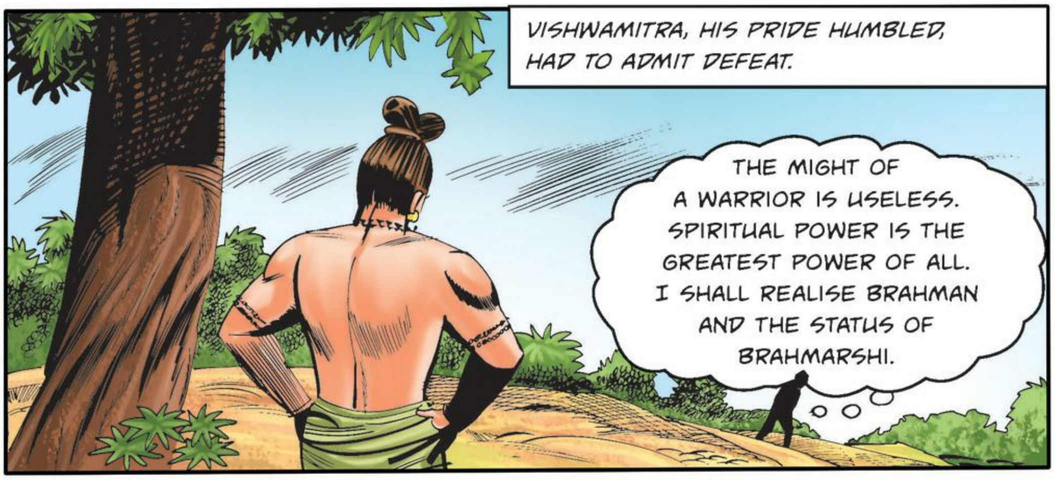

EVIL WARRIOR, LET US SEE HOW YOUR WEAPONS OF DESTRUCTION ENCOUNTER SPIRITUAL POWER.

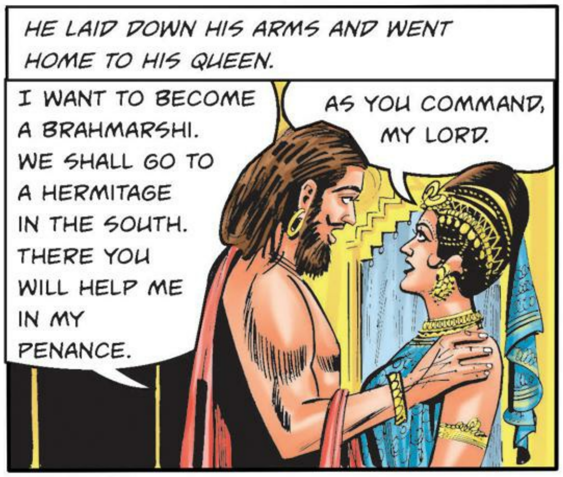
VISHWAMITRA HURLED THE WEAPON.
BUT -

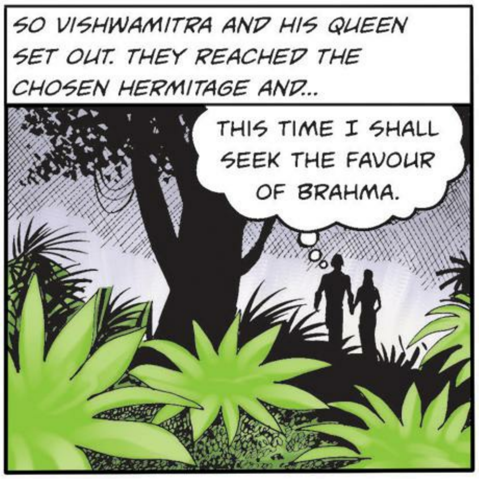


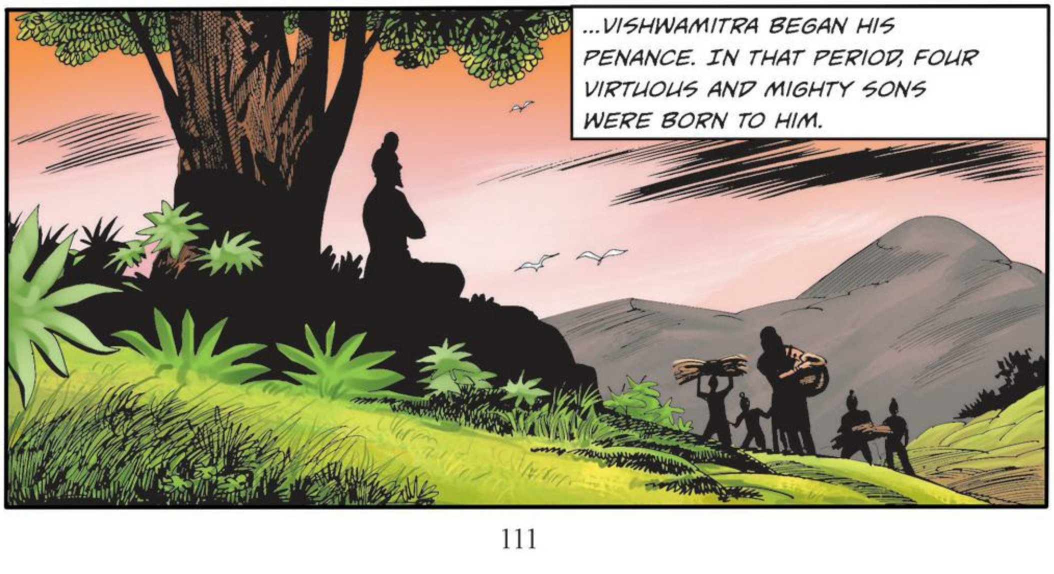

ADMIT NOW, THE IMPOTENCE OF ALL YOUR WEAPONS.

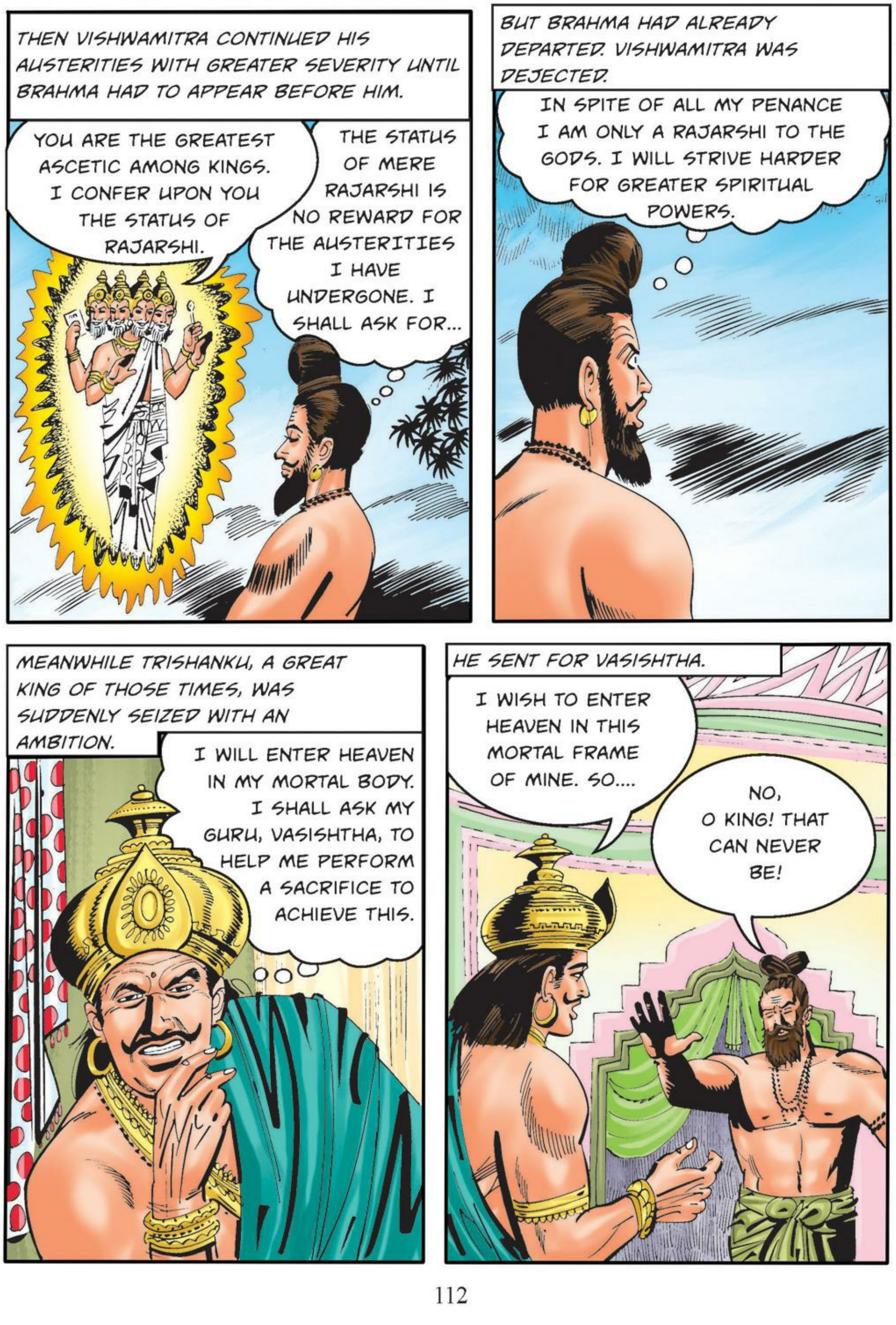

VISHWAMITRA IN DESPERATION HURLED WEAPON, AFTER...
...WEAPON.
BUT THEY WERE ALL ABSORBED BY VASISHTHA'S STAFF.
AT LAST VISHWAMITRA SENT OUT THE FATAL BRAHMASTRA. BUT...
...VASISHTHA SUBDUED EVEN THAT.

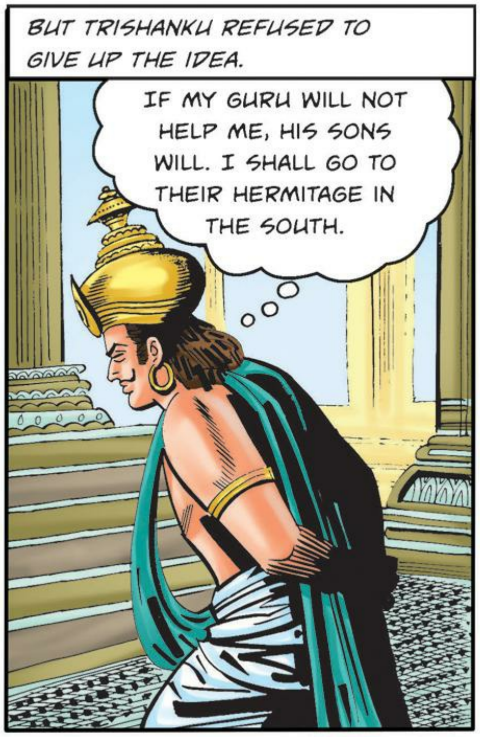

VISHWAMITRA, HIS PRIDE HUMBLED, HAD TO ADMIT DEFEAT.
THE MIGHT OF A WARRIOR IS USELESS. SPIRITUAL POWER IS THE GREATEST POWER OF ALL. I SHALL REALISE BRAHMAN AND THE STATUS OF BRAHMARSHI.

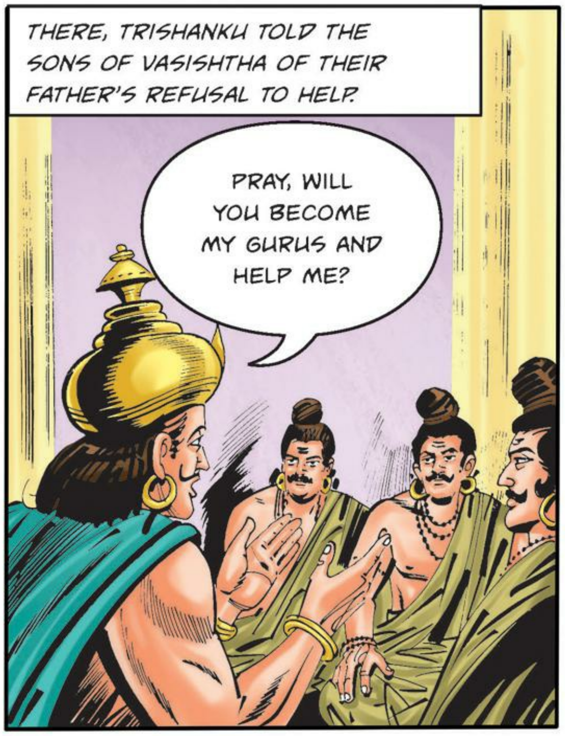

HE LAID DOWN HIS ARMS AND WENT HOME TO HIS QUEEN.
I WANT TO BECOME A BRAHMARSHI. WE SHALL GO TO A HERMITAGE IN THE SOUTH. THERE YOU WILL HELP ME IN MY PENANCE.
AS YOU COMMAND, MY LORD.

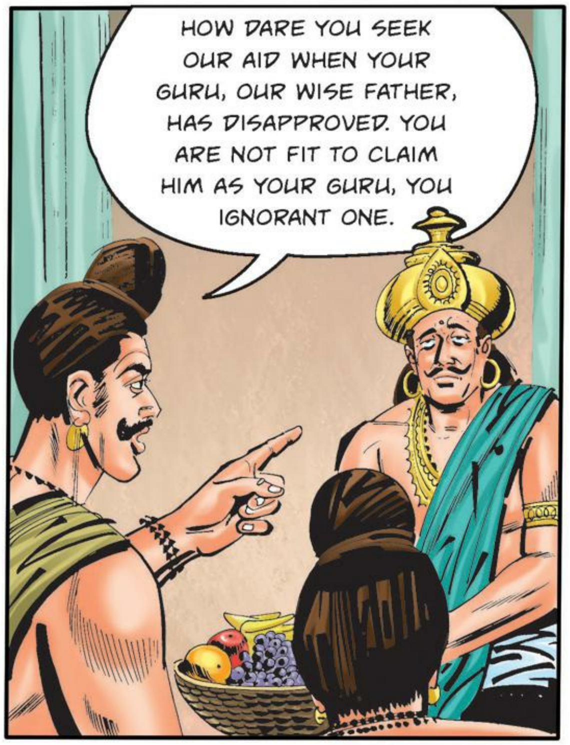

SO VISHWAMITRA AND HIS QUEEN SET OUT. THEY REACHED THE CHOSEN HERMITAGE AND...
THIS TIME I SHALL SEEK THE FAVOUR OF BRAHMA.

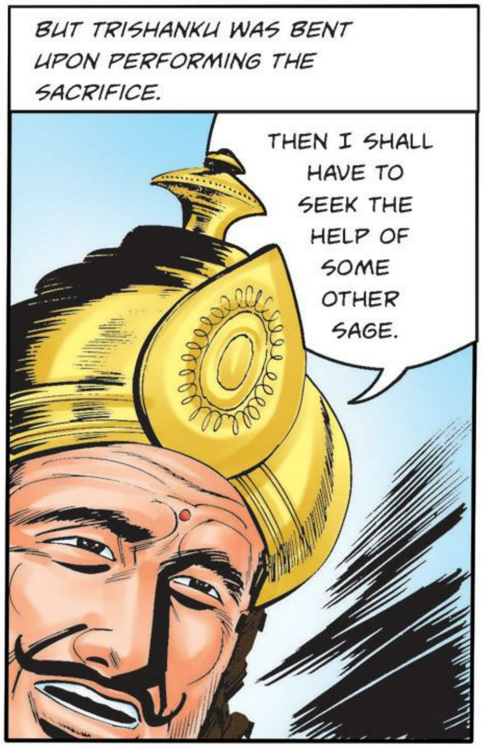

...VISHWAMITRA BEGAN HIS PENANCE. IN THAT PERIOD, FOUR VIRTUOUS AND MIGHTY SONS WERE BORN TO HIM.

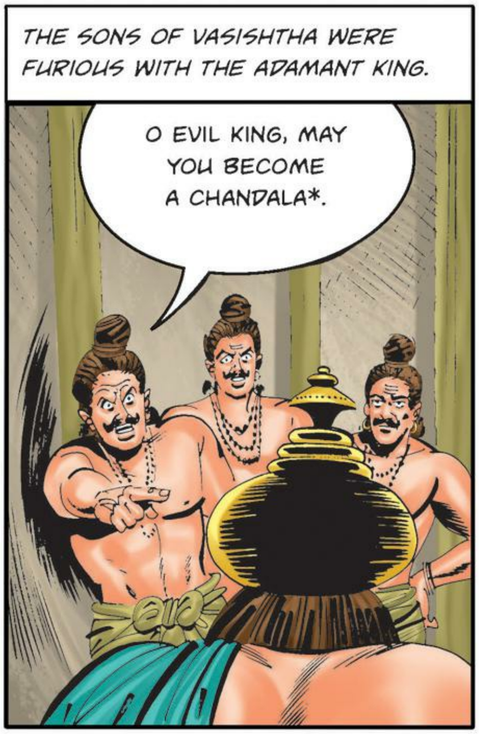

THEN VISHWAMITRA CONTINUED HIS AUSTERITIES WITH GREATER SEVERITY UNTIL BRAHMA HAD TO APPEAR BEFORE HIM.
YOU ARE THE GREATEST ASCETIC AMONG KINGS. I CONFER UPON YOU THE STATUS OF RAJARSHI.
THE STATUS OF MERE RAJARSHI IS NO REWARD FOR THE AUSTERITIES I HAVE UNDERGONE. I SHALL ASK FOR...
BUT BRAHMA HAD ALREADY DEPARTED. VISHWAMITRA WAS DEJECTED.
IN SPITE OF ALL MY PENANCE I AM ONLY A RAJARSHI TO THE GODS. I WILL STRIVE HARDER FOR GREATER SPIRITUAL POWERS.
MEANWHILE TRISHANKU, A GREAT KING OF THOSE TIMES, WAS SUDDENLY SEIZED WITH AN AMBITION.
I WILL ENTER HEAVEN IN MY MORTAL BODY. I SHALL ASK MY GURU, VASISHTHA, TO HELP ME PERFORM A SACRIFICE TO ACHIEVE THIS.
HE SENT FOR VASISHTHA.
I WISH TO ENTER HEAVEN IN THIS MORTAL FRAME OF MINE. SO....
NO, O KING! THAT CAN NEVER BE!


BUT TRISHANKU REFUSED TO GIVE UP THE IDEA.
IF MY GURU WILL NOT HELP ME, HIS SONS WILL. I SHALL GO TO THEIR HERMITAGE IN THE SOUTH.


THERE, TRISHANKU TOLD THE SONS OF VASISHTHA OF THEIR FATHER'S REFUSAL TO HELP.
PRAY, WILL YOU BECOME MY GURUS AND HELP ME?

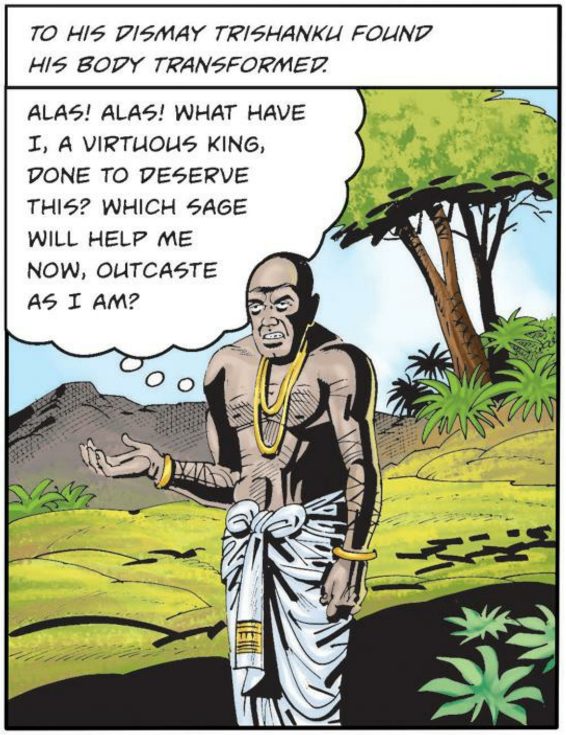

HOW DARE YOU SEEK OUR AID WHEN YOUR GURU, OUR WISE FATHER, HAS DISAPPROVED. YOU ARE NOT FIT TO CLAIM HIM AS YOUR GURU, YOU IGNORANT ONE.


BUT TRISHANKU WAS BENT UPON PERFORMING THE SACRIFICE.
THEN I SHALL HAVE TO SEEK THE HELP OF SOME OTHER SAGE.



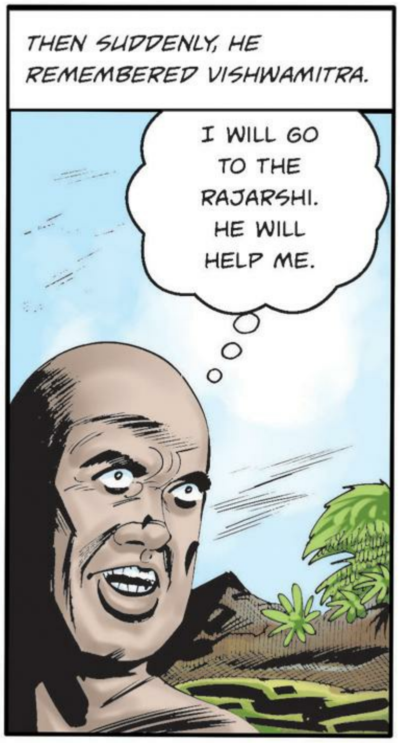
THE SONS OF VASISHTHA WERE FURIOUS WITH THE ADAMANT KING.

O EVIL KING, MAY YOU BECOME A CHANDALA*.



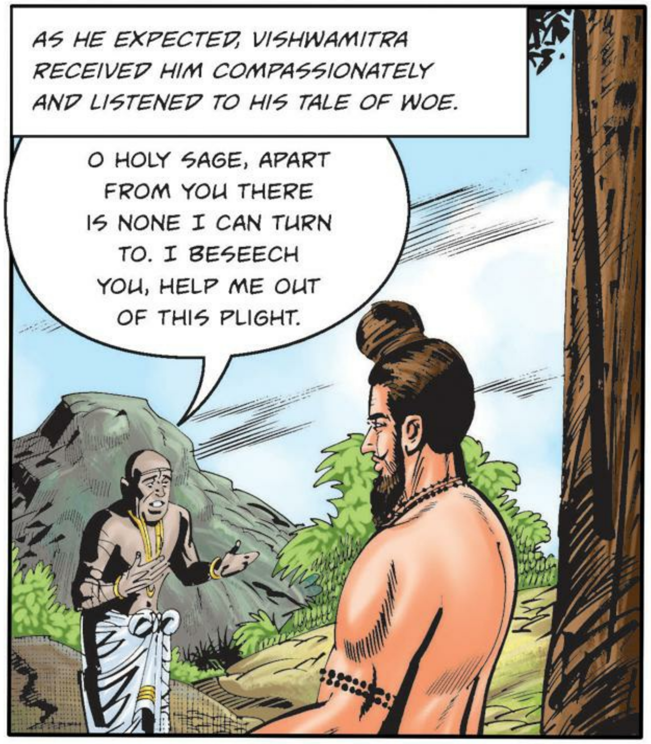
TO HIS DISMAY TRISHANKU FOUND HIS BODY TRANSFORMED.

ALAS! ALAS! WHAT HAVE I, A VIRTUOUS KING, DONE TO DESERVE THIS? WHICH SAGE WILL HELP ME NOW, OUTCASTE AS I AM?



THEN SUDDENLY, HE REMEMBERED VISHWAMITRA.

I WILL GO TO THE RAJARSHI. HE WILL HELP ME.



AS HE EXPECTED, VISHWAMITRA RECEIVED HIM COMPASSIONATELY AND LISTENED TO HIS TALE OF WOE.

O HOLY SAGE, APART FROM YOU THERE IS NONE I CAN TURN TO. I BESEECH YOU, HELP ME OUT OF THIS PLIGHT.

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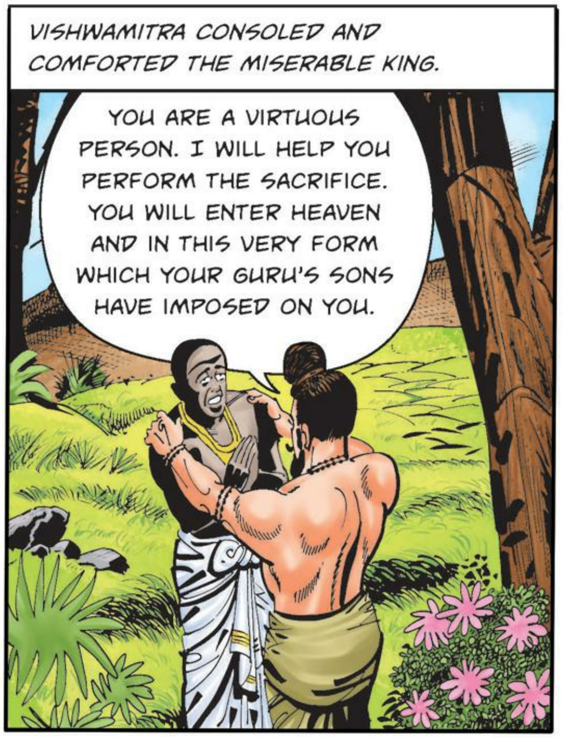
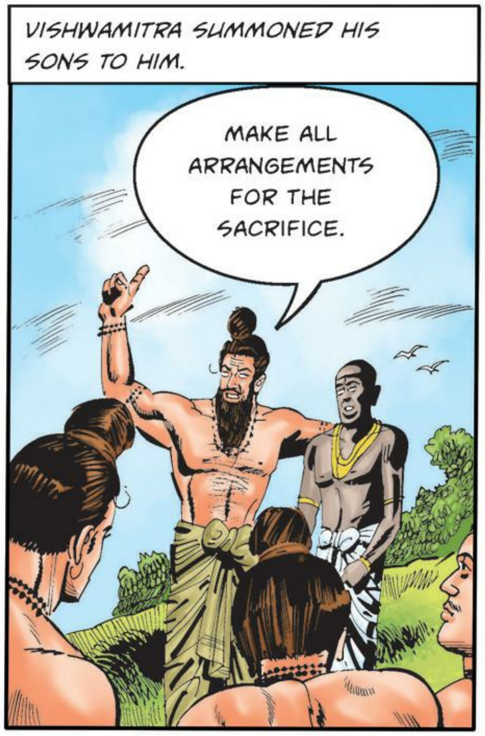
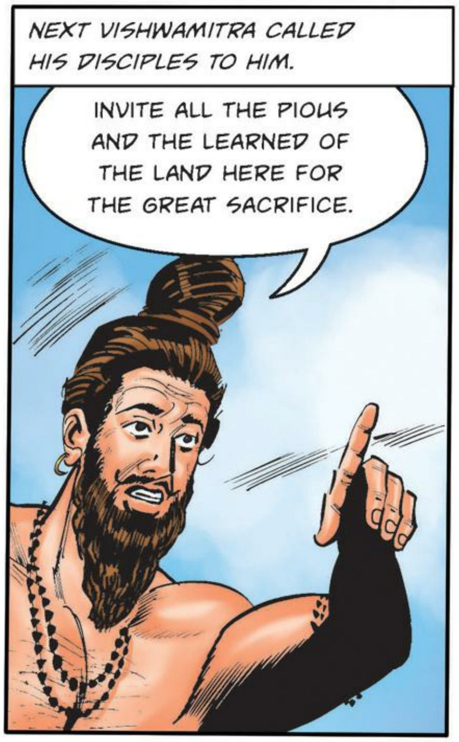
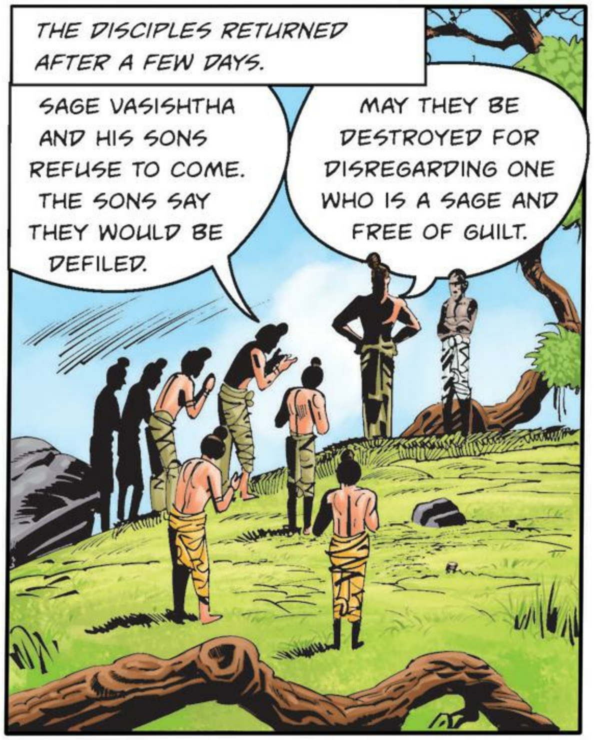
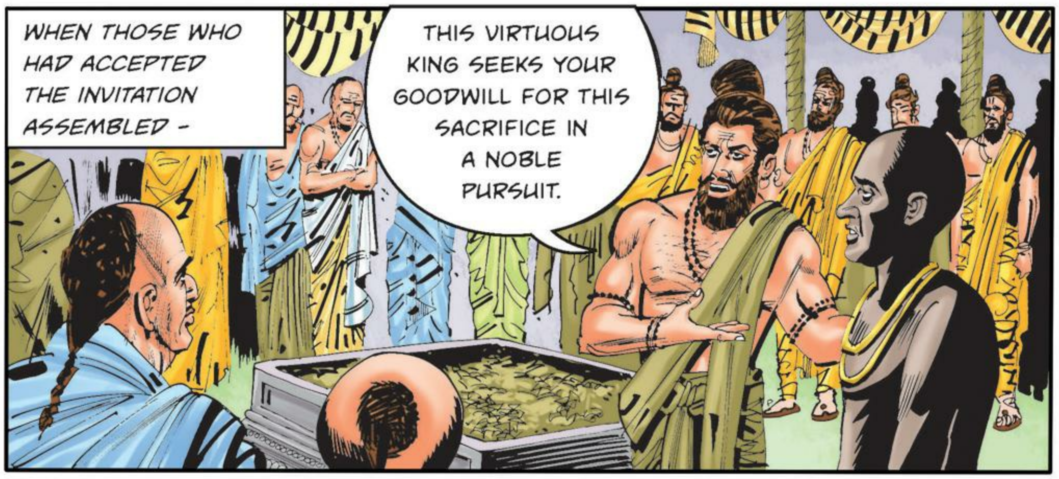
*A CLASS OF PEOPLE WHO USED TO DISPOSE DEAD BODIES

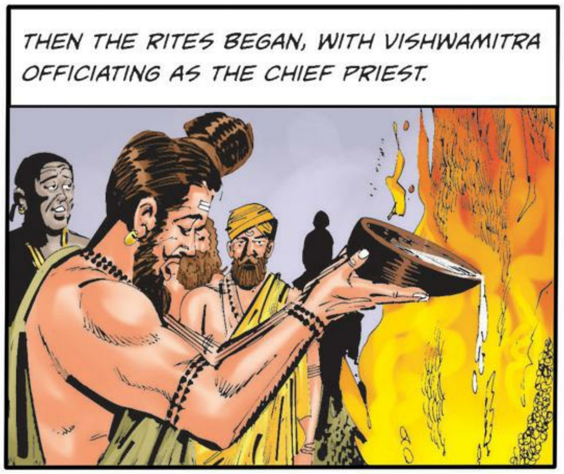

VISHWAMITRA CONSOLED AND COMFORTED THE MISERABLE KING.
YOU ARE A VIRTUOUS PERSON. I WILL HELP YOU PERFORM THE SACRIFICE. YOU WILL ENTER HEAVEN AND IN THIS VERY FORM WHICH YOUR GURU'S SONS HAVE IMPOSED ON YOU.

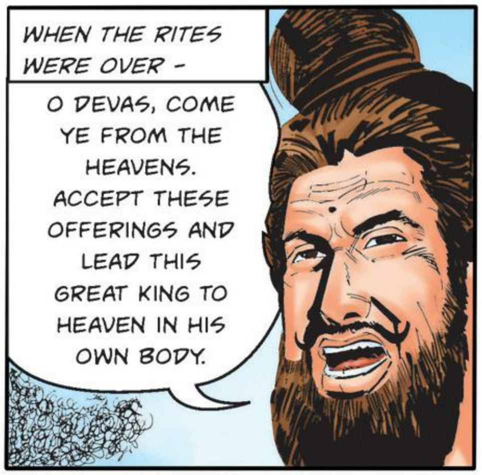

VISHWAMITRA SUMMONED HIS SONS TO HIM.
MAKE ALL ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE SACRIFICE.

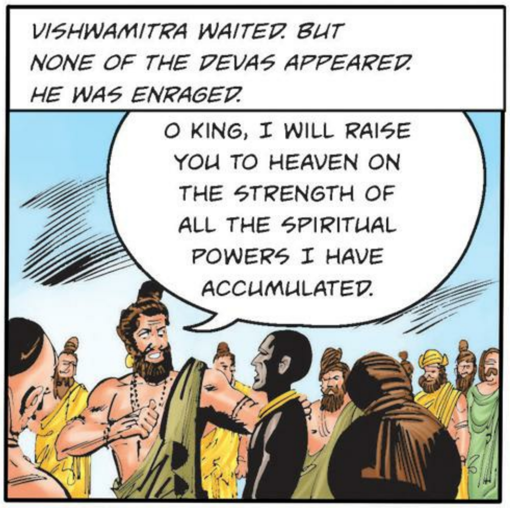

NEXT VISHWAMITRA CALLED HIS DISCIPLES TO HIM.
INVITE ALL THE PIOUS AND THE LEARNED OF THE LAND HERE FOR THE GREAT SACRIFICE.

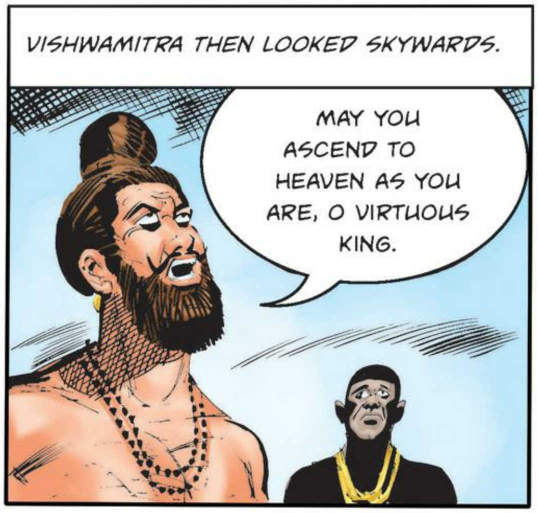

THE DISCIPLES RETURNED AFTER A FEW DAYS.
SAGE VASISHTHA AND HIS SONS REFUSE TO COME. THE SONS SAY THEY WOULD BE DEFILED.
MAY THEY BE DESTROYED FOR DISREGARDING ONE WHO IS A SAGE AND FREE OF GUILT.

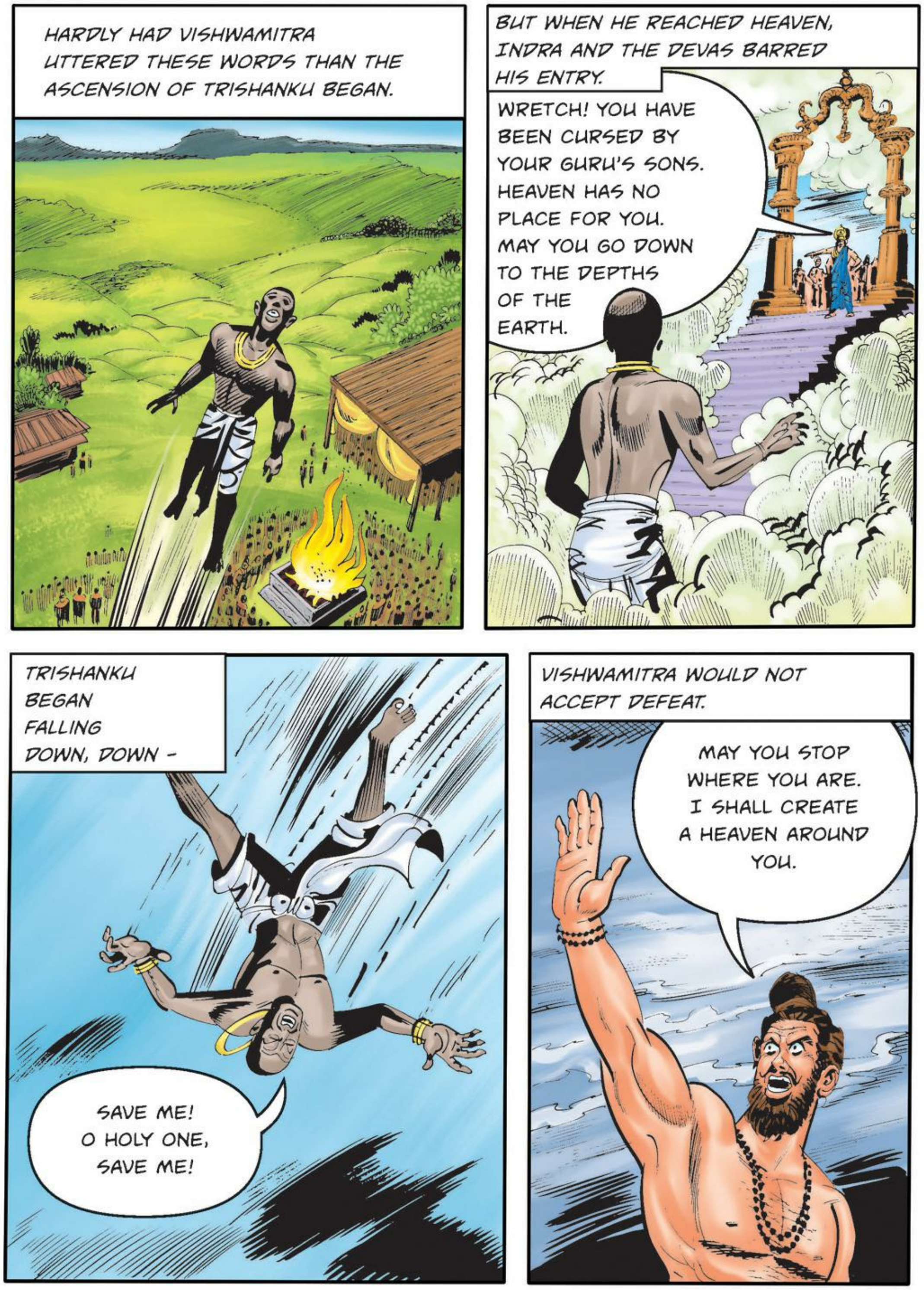

WHEN THOSE WHO HAD ACCEPTED THE INVITATION ASSEMBLED -
THIS VIRTUOUS KING SEEKS YOUR GOODWILL FOR THIS SACRIFICE IN A NOBLE PURSUIT.

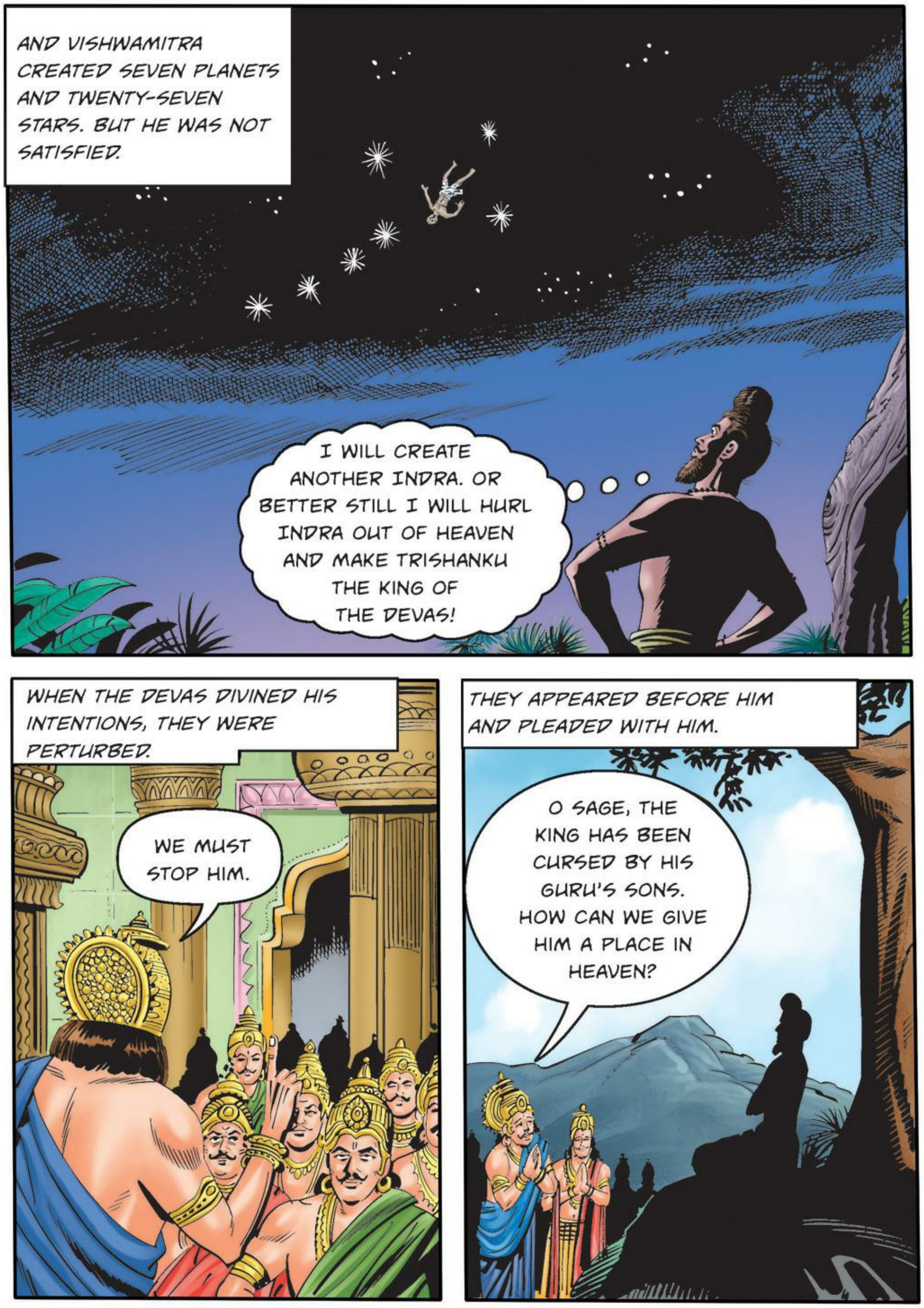

THEN THE RITES BEGAN, WITH VISHWAMITRA OFFICIATING AS THE CHIEF PRIEST.

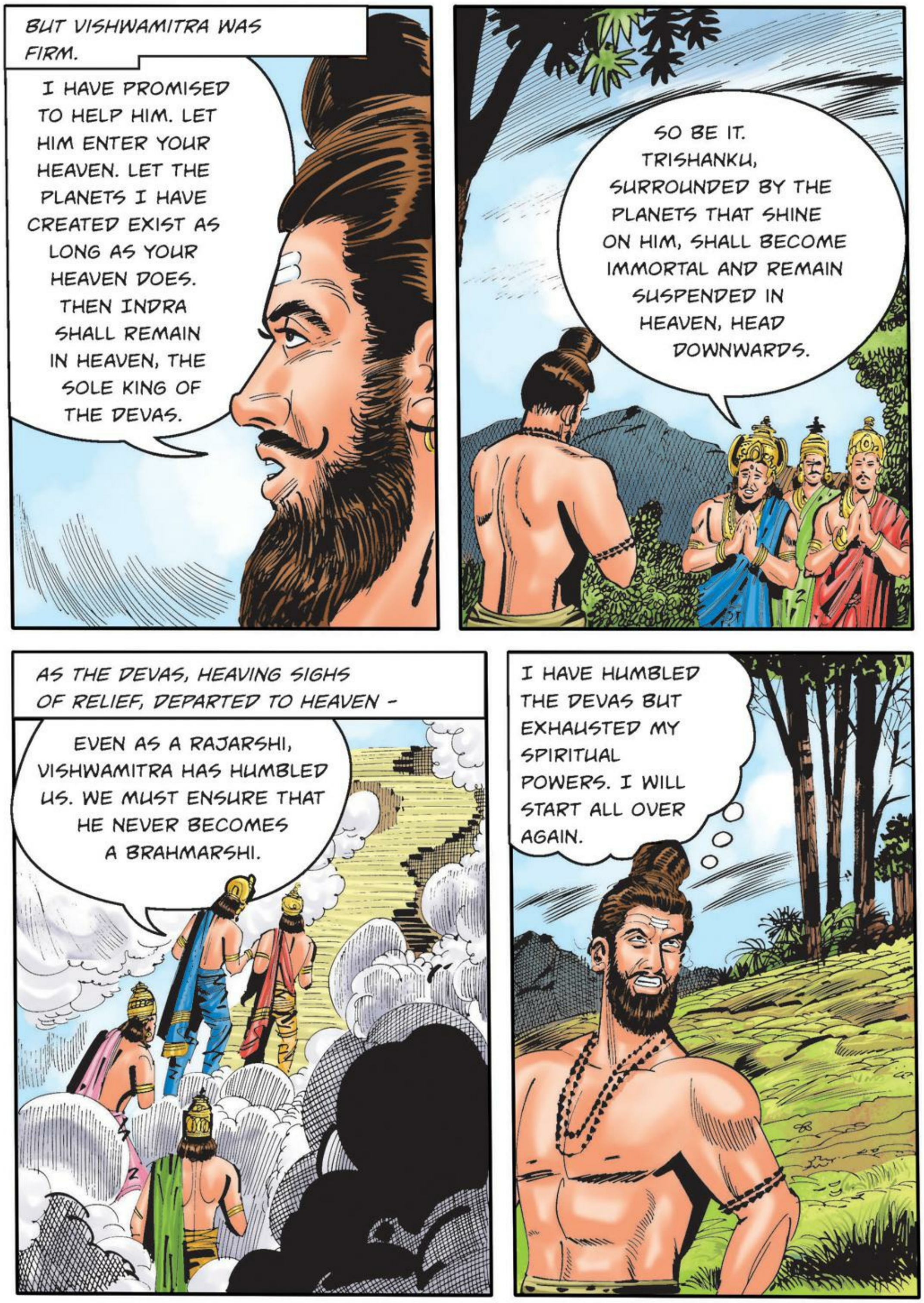

WHEN THE RITES WERE OVER -
O DEVAS, COME YE FROM THE HEAVENS. ACCEPT THESE OFFERINGS AND LEAD THIS GREAT KING TO HEAVEN IN HIS OWN BODY.

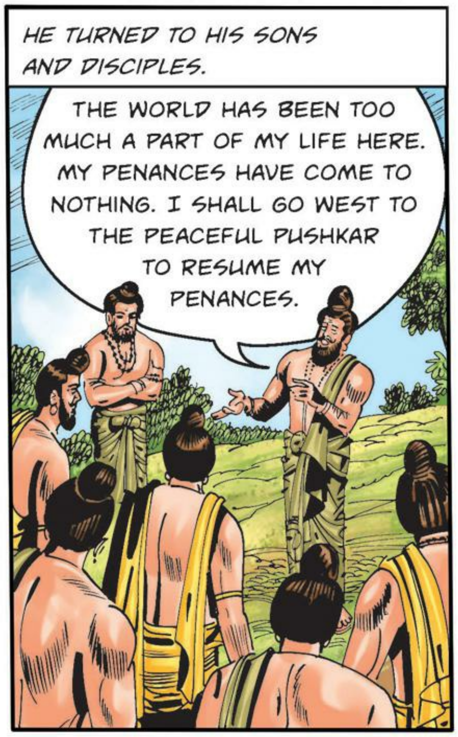

VISHWAMITRA WAITED. BUT NONE OF THE DEVAS APPEARED. HE WAS ENRAGED.
O KING, I WILL RAISE YOU TO HEAVEN ON THE STRENGTH OF ALL THE SPIRITUAL POWERS I HAVE ACCUMULATED.

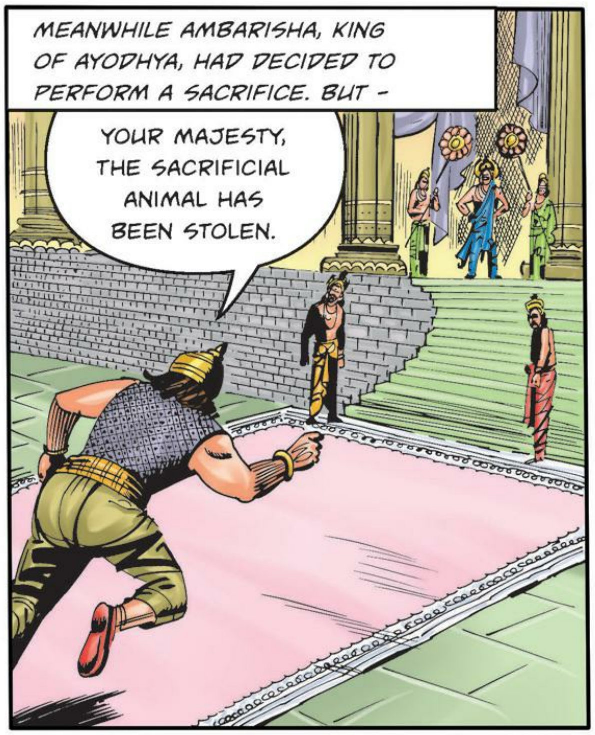

VISHWAMITRA THEN LOOKED SKYWARDS.
MAY YOU ASCEND TO HEAVEN AS YOU ARE, O VIRTUOUS KING.

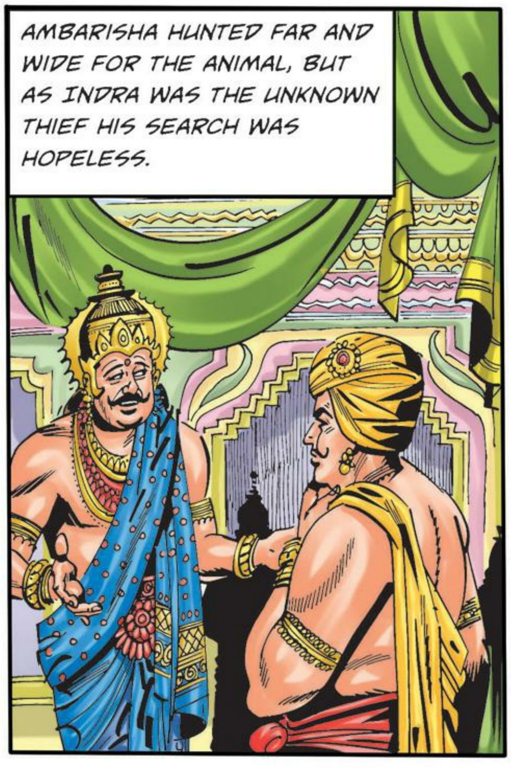

HARDLY HAD VISHWAMITRA UTTERED THESE WORDS THAN THE ASCENSION OF TRISHANKU BEGAN.
BUT WHEN HE REACHED HEAVEN, INDRA AND THE DEVAS BARRED HIS ENTRY.
WRETCH! YOU HAVE BEEN CURSED BY YOUR GURU'S SONS. HEAVEN HAS NO PLACE FOR YOU. MAY YOU GO DOWN TO THE DEPTHS OF THE EARTH.
TRISHANKU BEGAN FALLING DOWN, DOWN -
SAVE ME! O HOLY ONE, SAVE ME!
VISHWAMITRA WOULD NOT ACCEPT DEFEAT.
MAY YOU STOP WHERE YOU ARE. I SHALL CREATE A HEAVEN AROUND YOU.

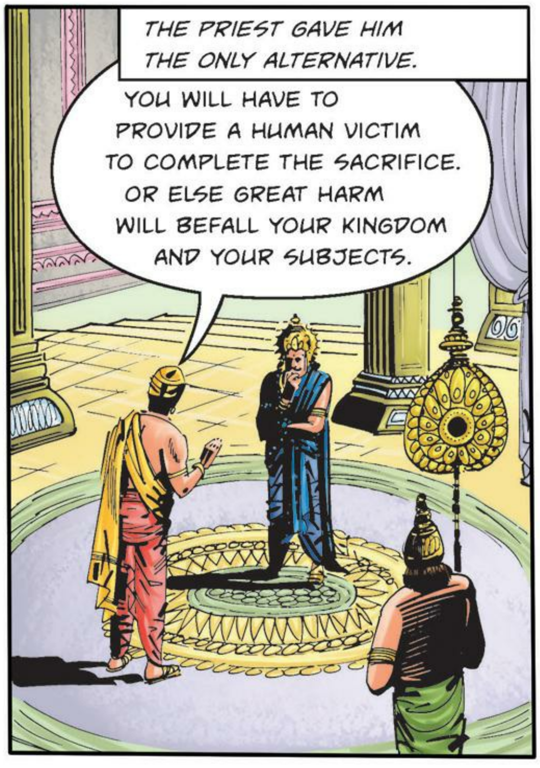

AND VISHWAMITRA CREATED SEVEN PLANETS AND TWENTY-SEVEN STARS. BUT HE WAS NOT SATISFIED.
I WILL CREATE ANOTHER INDRA. OR BETTER STILL I WILL HURL INDRA OUT OF HEAVEN AND MAKE TRISHANKU THE KING OF THE DEVAS!
WHEN THE DEVAS DIVINED HIS INTENTIONS, THEY WERE PERTURBED.
WE MUST STOP HIM.
THEY APPEARED BEFORE HIM AND PLEADED WITH HIM.
O SAGE, THE KING HAS BEEN CURSED BY HIS GURU'S SONS. HOW CAN WE GIVE HIM A PLACE IN HEAVEN?

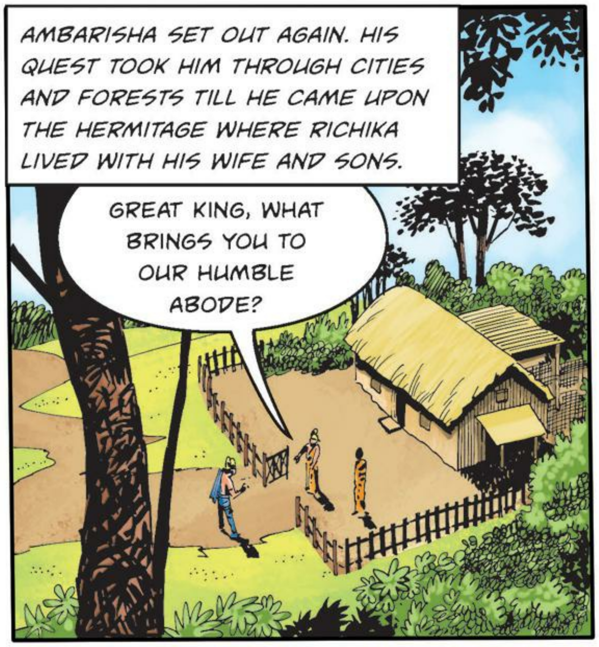

BUT VISHWAMITRA WAS FIRM.
I HAVE PROMISED TO HELP HIM. LET HIM ENTER YOUR HEAVEN. LET THE PLANETS I HAVE CREATED EXIST AS LONG AS YOUR HEAVEN DOES. THEN INDRA SHALL REMAIN IN HEAVEN, THE SOLE KING OF THE DEVAS.
SO BE IT. TRISHANKU, SURROUNDED BY THE PLANETS THAT SHINE ON HIM, SHALL BECOME IMMORTAL AND REMAIN SUSPENDED IN HEAVEN, HEAD DOWNWARDS.
AS THE DEVAS, HEAVING SIGHS OF RELIEF, DEPARTED TO HEAVEN -
EVEN AS A RAJARSHI, VISHWAMITRA HAS HUMBLED US. WE MUST ENSURE THAT HE NEVER BECOMES A BRAHMARSHI.
I HAVE HUMBLED THE DEVAS BUT EXHAUSTED MY SPIRITUAL POWERS. I WILL START ALL OVER AGAIN.

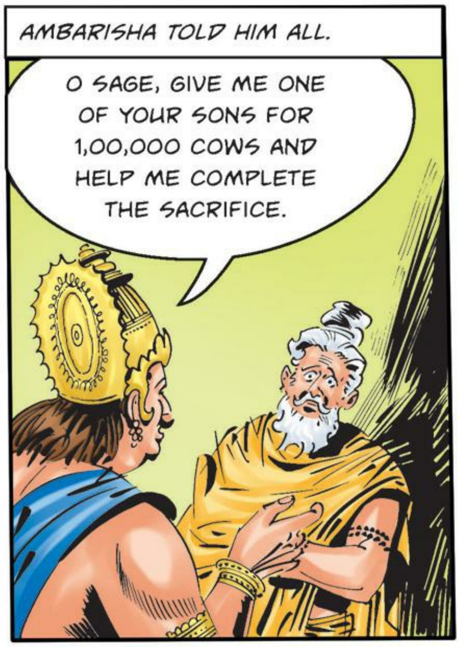

HE TURNED TO HIS SONS AND DISCIPLES.
THE WORLD HAS BEEN TOO MUCH A PART OF MY LIFE HERE. MY PENANCES HAVE COME TO NOTHING. I SHALL GO WEST TO THE PEACEFUL PUSHKAR TO RESUME MY PENANCES.

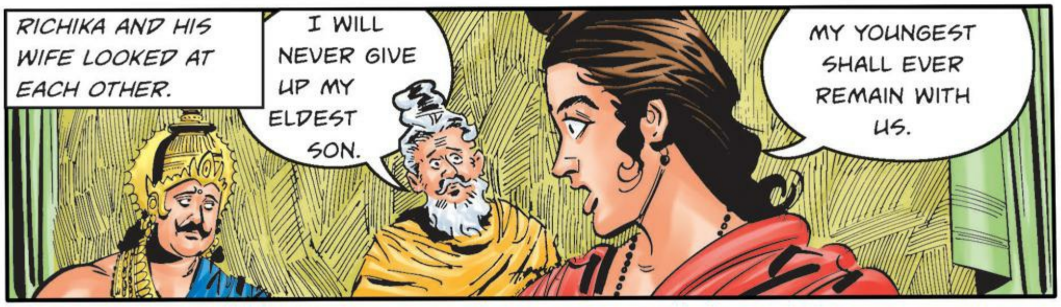

MEANWHILE AMBARISHA, KING OF AYODHYA, HAD DECIDED TO PERFORM A SACRIFICE. BUT -
YOUR MAJESTY, THE SACRIFICIAL ANIMAL HAS BEEN STOLEN.

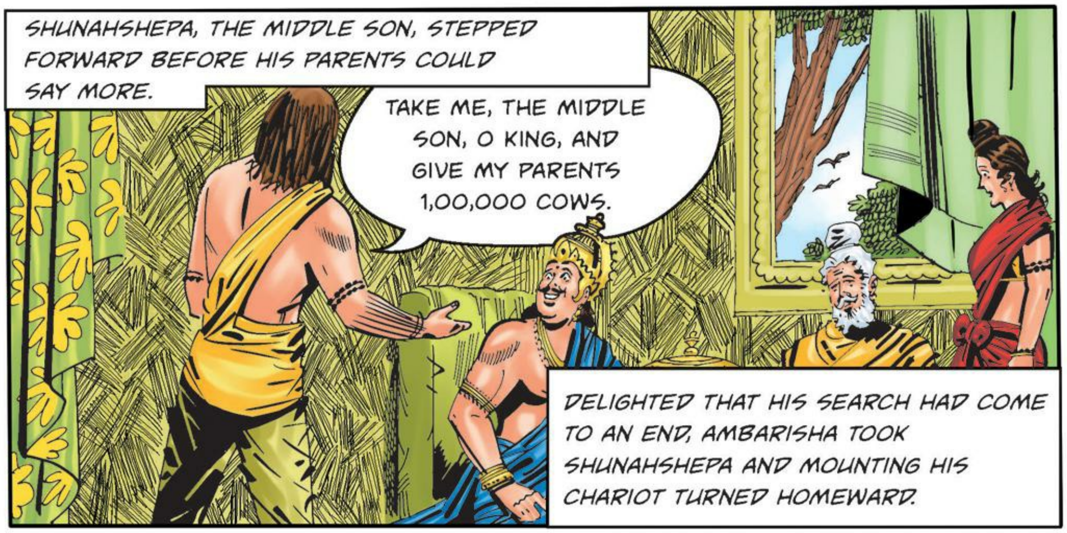

AMBARISHA HUNTED FAR AND WIDE FOR THE ANIMAL, BUT AS INDRA WAS THE UNKNOWN THIEF HIS SEARCH WAS HOPELESS.

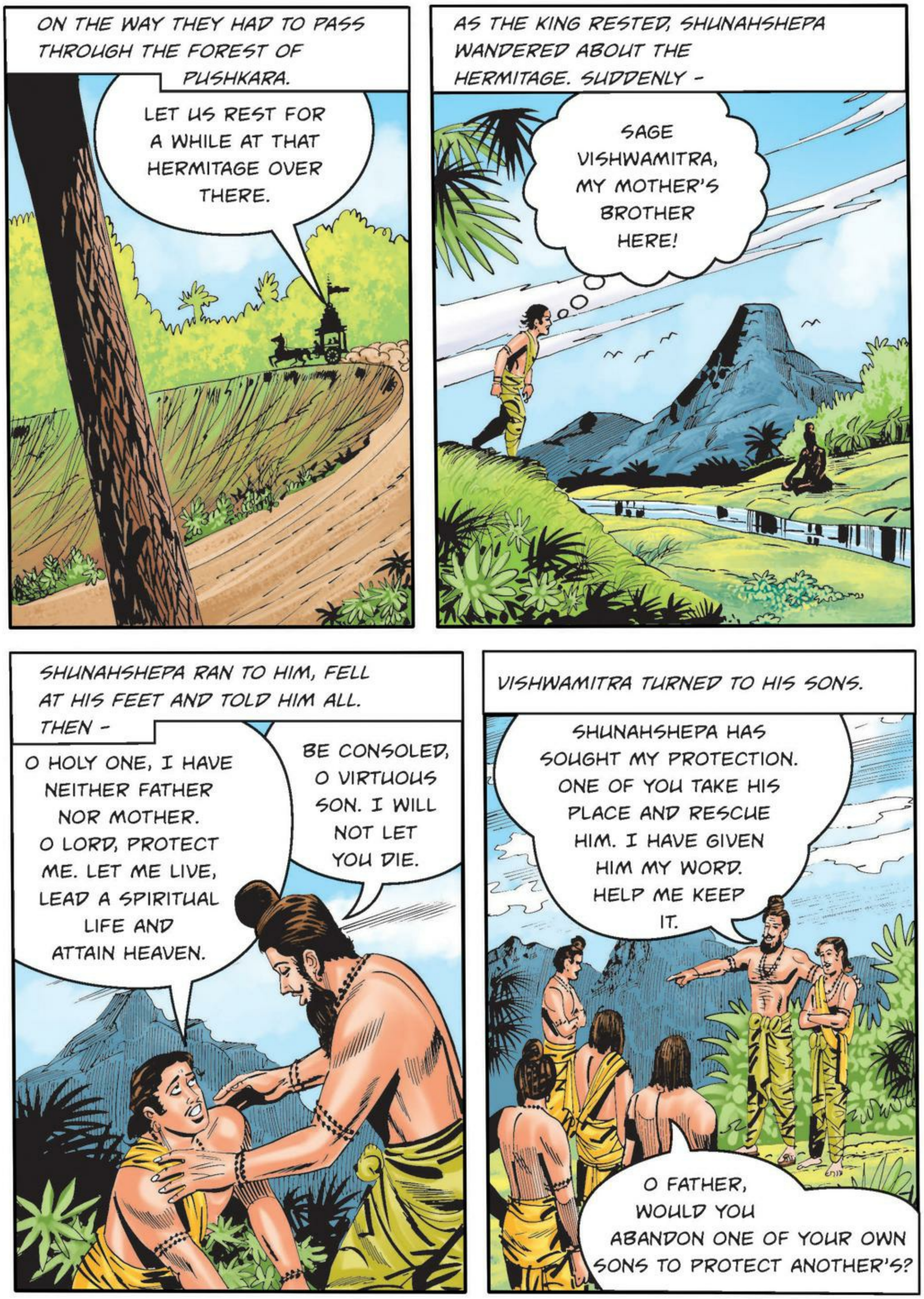

THE PRIEST GAVE HIM THE ONLY ALTERNATIVE.
YOU WILL HAVE TO PROVIDE A HUMAN VICTIM TO COMPLETE THE SACRIFICE. OR ELSE GREAT HARM WILL BEFALL YOUR KINGDOM AND YOUR SUBJECTS.

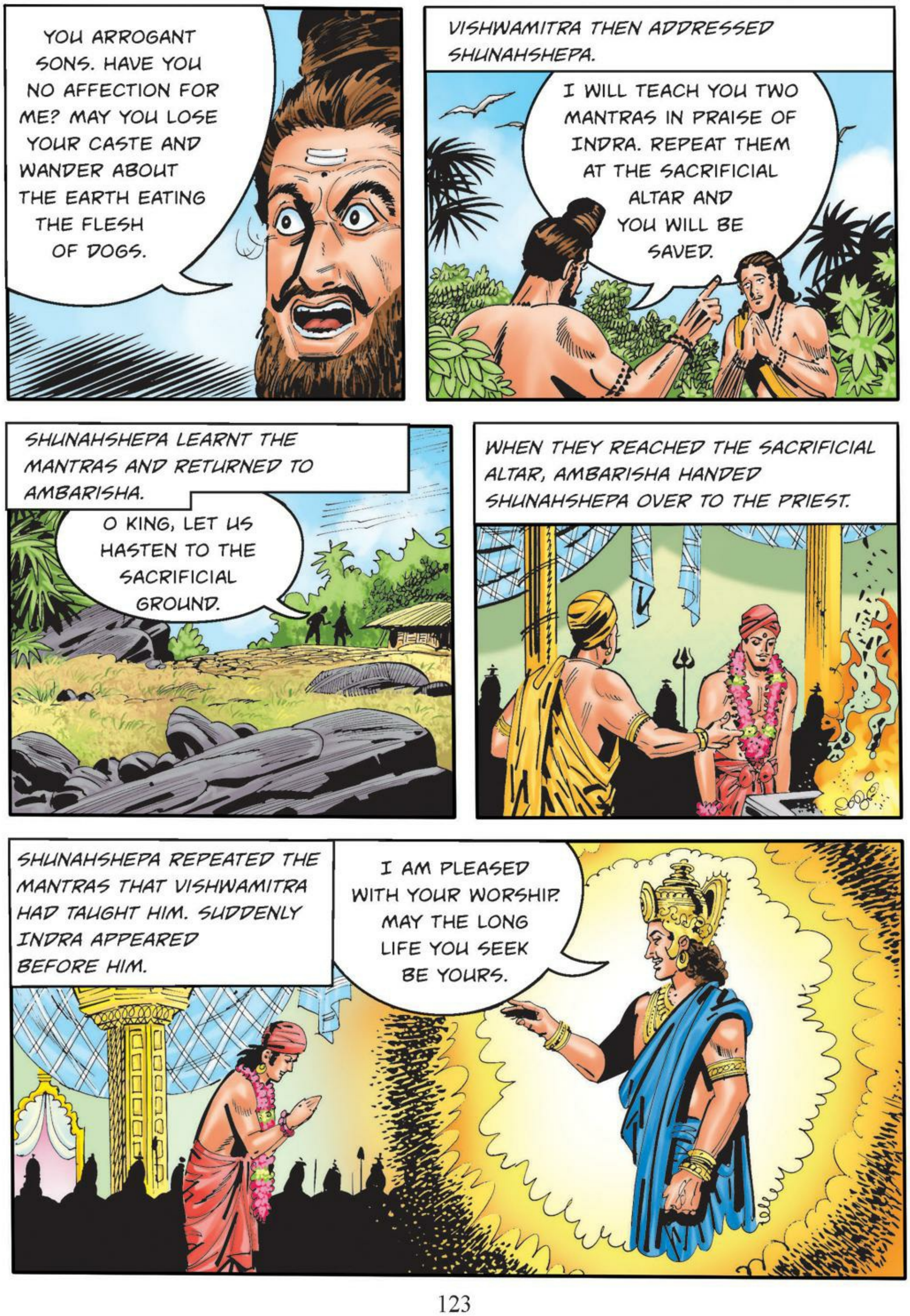

AMBARISHA SET OUT AGAIN. HIS QUEST TOOK HIM THROUGH CITIES AND FORESTS TILL HE CAME UPON THE HERMITAGE WHERE RICHIKA LIVED WITH HIS WIFE AND SONS.
GREAT KING, WHAT BRINGS YOU TO OUR HUMBLE ABODE?

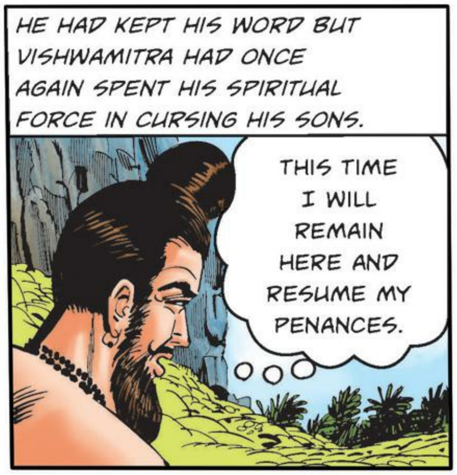

AMBARISHA TOLD HIM ALL.
O SAGE, GIVE ME ONE OF YOUR SONS FOR 1,00,000 COWS AND HELP ME COMPLETE THE SACRIFICE.

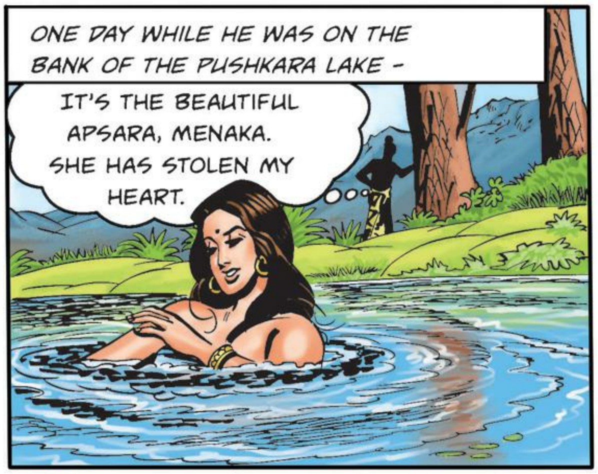

RICHIKA AND HIS WIFE LOOKED AT EACH OTHER.
I WILL NEVER GIVE UP MY ELDEST SON.
MY YOUNGEST SHALL EVER REMAIN WITH US.

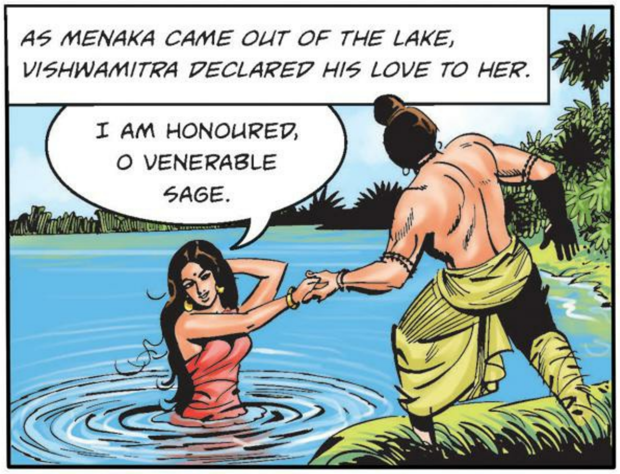

SHUNAHSHEPA, THE MIDDLE SON, STEPPED FORWARD BEFORE HIS PARENTS COULD SAY MORE.
TAKE ME, THE MIDDLE SON, O KING, AND GIVE MY PARENTS 1,00,000 COWS.
DELIGHTED THAT HIS SEARCH HAD COME TO AN END, AMBARISHA TOOK SHUNAHSHEPA AND MOUNTING HIS CHARIOT TURNED HOMEWARD.

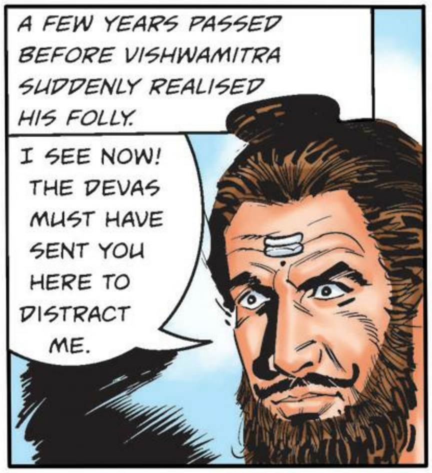

ON THE WAY THEY HAD TO PASS THROUGH THE FOREST OF PUSHKARA.
LET US REST FOR A WHILE AT THAT HERMITAGE OVER THERE.
AS THE KING RESTED, SHUNAHSHEPA WANDERED ABOUT THE HERMITAGE. SUDDENLY –
SAGE VISHWAMITRA, MY MOTHER'S BROTHER HERE!
SHUNAHSHEPA RAN TO HIM, FELL AT HIS FEET AND TOLD HIM ALL. THEN –
O HOLY ONE, I HAVE NEITHER FATHER NOR MOTHER. O LORD, PROTECT ME. LET ME LIVE, LEAD A SPIRITUAL LIFE AND ATTAIN HEAVEN.
BE CONSOLED, O VIRTUOUS SON. I WILL NOT LET YOU DIE.
VISHWAMITRA TURNED TO HIS SONS.
SHUNAHSHEPA HAS SOUGHT MY PROTECTION. ONE OF YOU TAKE HIS PLACE AND RESCUE HIM. I HAVE GIVEN HIM MY WORD. HELP ME KEEP IT.
O FATHER, WOULD YOU ABANDON ONE OF YOUR OWN SONS TO PROTECT ANOTHER'S?

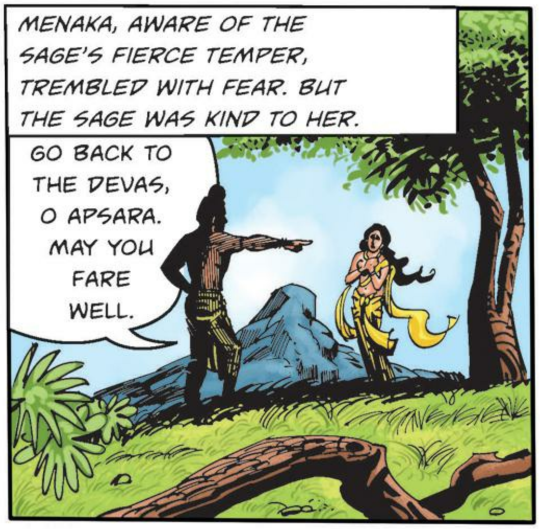

YOU ARROGANT SONS. HAVE YOU NO AFFECTION FOR ME? MAY YOU LOSE YOUR CASTE AND WANDER ABOUT THE EARTH EATING THE FLESH OF DOGS.
VISHWAMITRA THEN ADDRESSED SHUNAHSHEPA.
I WILL TEACH YOU TWO MANTRAS IN PRAISE OF INDRA. REPEAT THEM AT THE SACRIFICIAL ALTAR AND YOU WILL BE SAVED.
SHUNAHSHEPA LEARNT THE MANTRAS AND RETURNED TO AMBARISHA.
O KING, LET US HASTEN TO THE SACRIFICIAL GROUND.
WHEN THEY REACHED THE SACRIFICIAL ALTAR, AMBARISHA HANDED SHUNAHSHEPA OVER TO THE PRIEST.
SHUNAHSHEPA REPEATED THE MANTRAS THAT VISHWAMITRA HAD TAUGHT HIM. SUDDENLY INDRA APPEARED BEFORE HIM.
I AM PLEASED WITH YOUR WORSHIP. MAY THE LONG LIFE YOU SEEK BE YOURS.

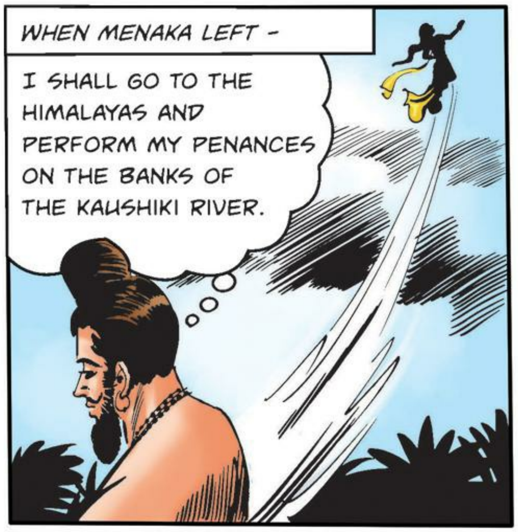

HE HAD KEPT HIS WORD BUT VISHWAMITRA HAD ONCE AGAIN SPENT HIS SPIRITUAL FORCE IN CURSING HIS SONS.
THIS TIME I WILL REMAIN HERE AND RESUME MY PENANCES.

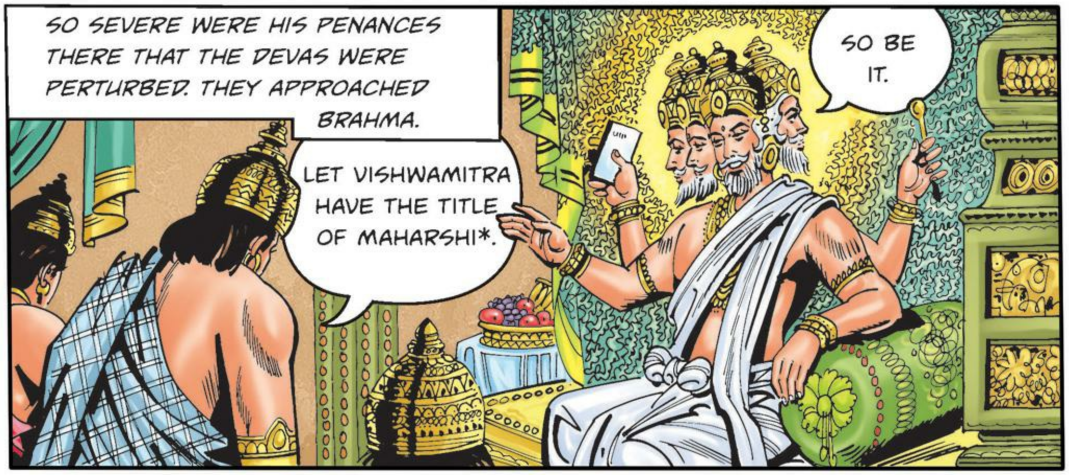

ONE DAY WHILE HE WAS ON THE BANK OF THE PUSHKARA LAKE -
IT'S THE BEAUTIFUL APSARA, MENAKA. SHE HAS STOLEN MY HEART.

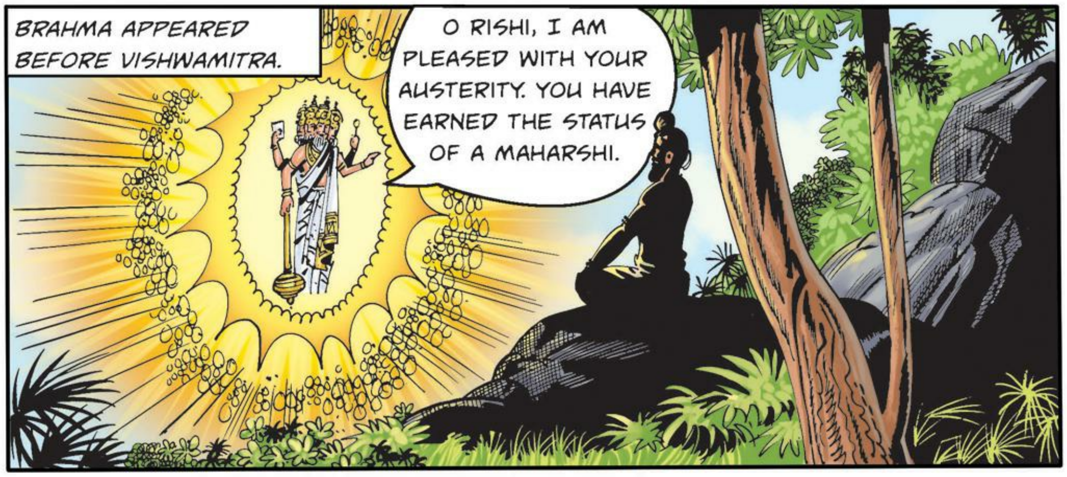

AS MENAKA CAME OUT OF THE LAKE, VISHWAMITRA DECLARED HIS LOVE TO HER.
I AM HONOURED, O VENERABLE SAGE.

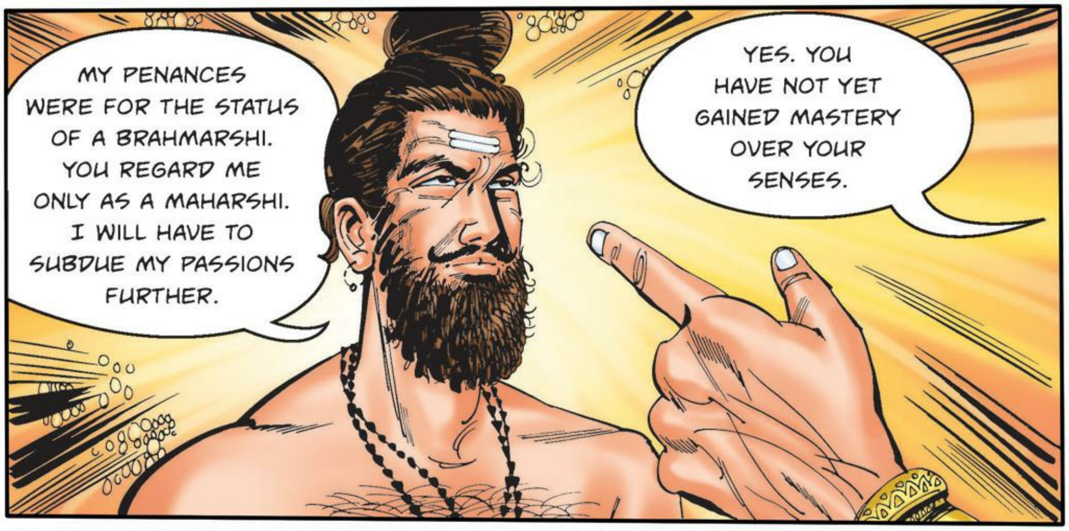

A FEW YEARS PASSED BEFORE VISHWAMITRA SUDDENLY REALISED HIS FOLLY.
I SEE NOW! THE DEVAS MUST HAVE SENT YOU HERE TO DISTRACT ME.


MENAKA, AWARE OF THE SAGE'S FIERCE TEMPER, TREMBLED WITH FEAR. BUT THE SAGE WAS KIND TO HER.
GO BACK TO THE DEVAS, O APSARA. MAY YOU FARE WELL.

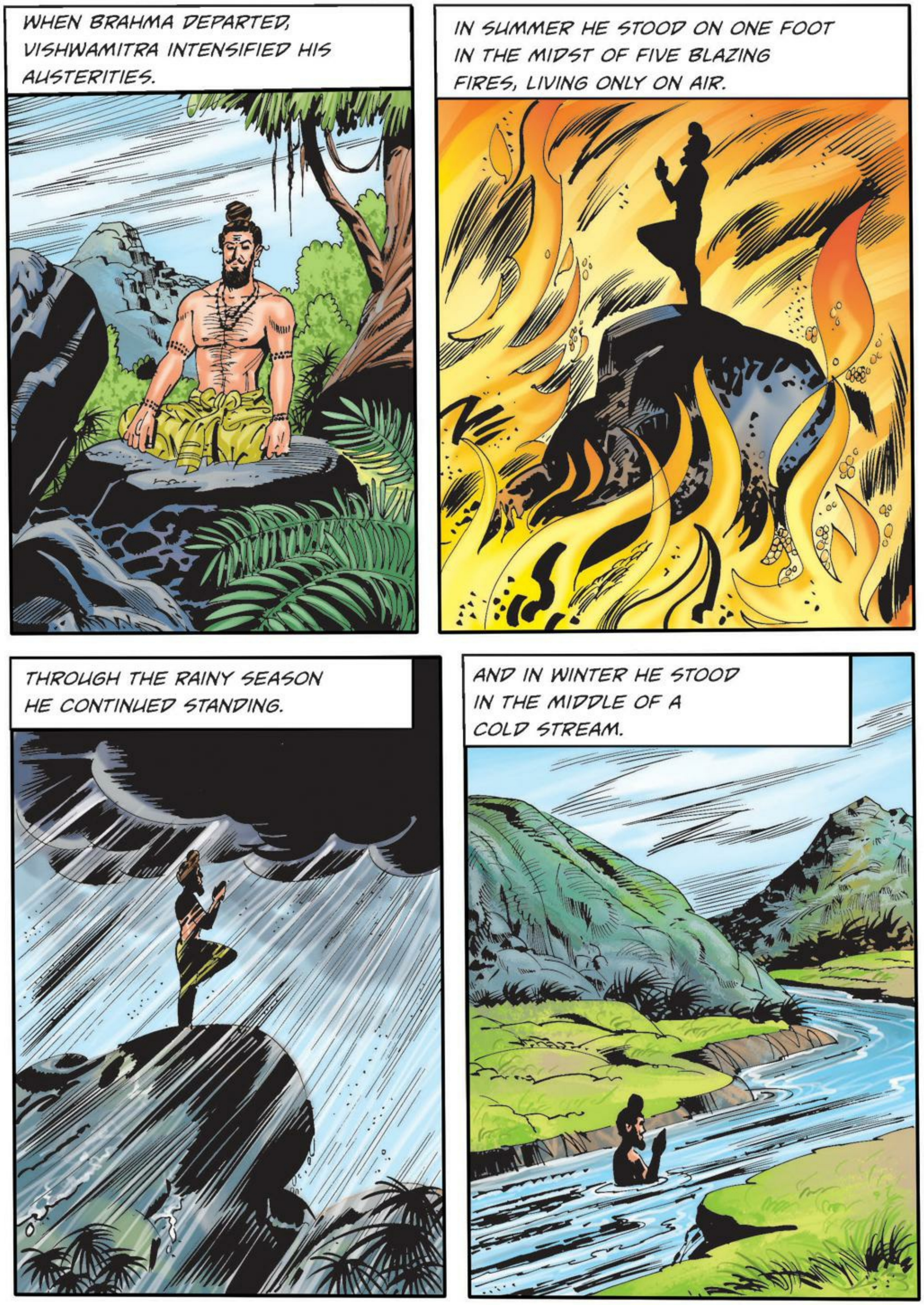

WHEN MENAKA LEFT -
I SHALL GO TO THE HIMALAYAS AND PERFORM MY PENANCES ON THE BANKS OF THE KAUSHIKI RIVER.

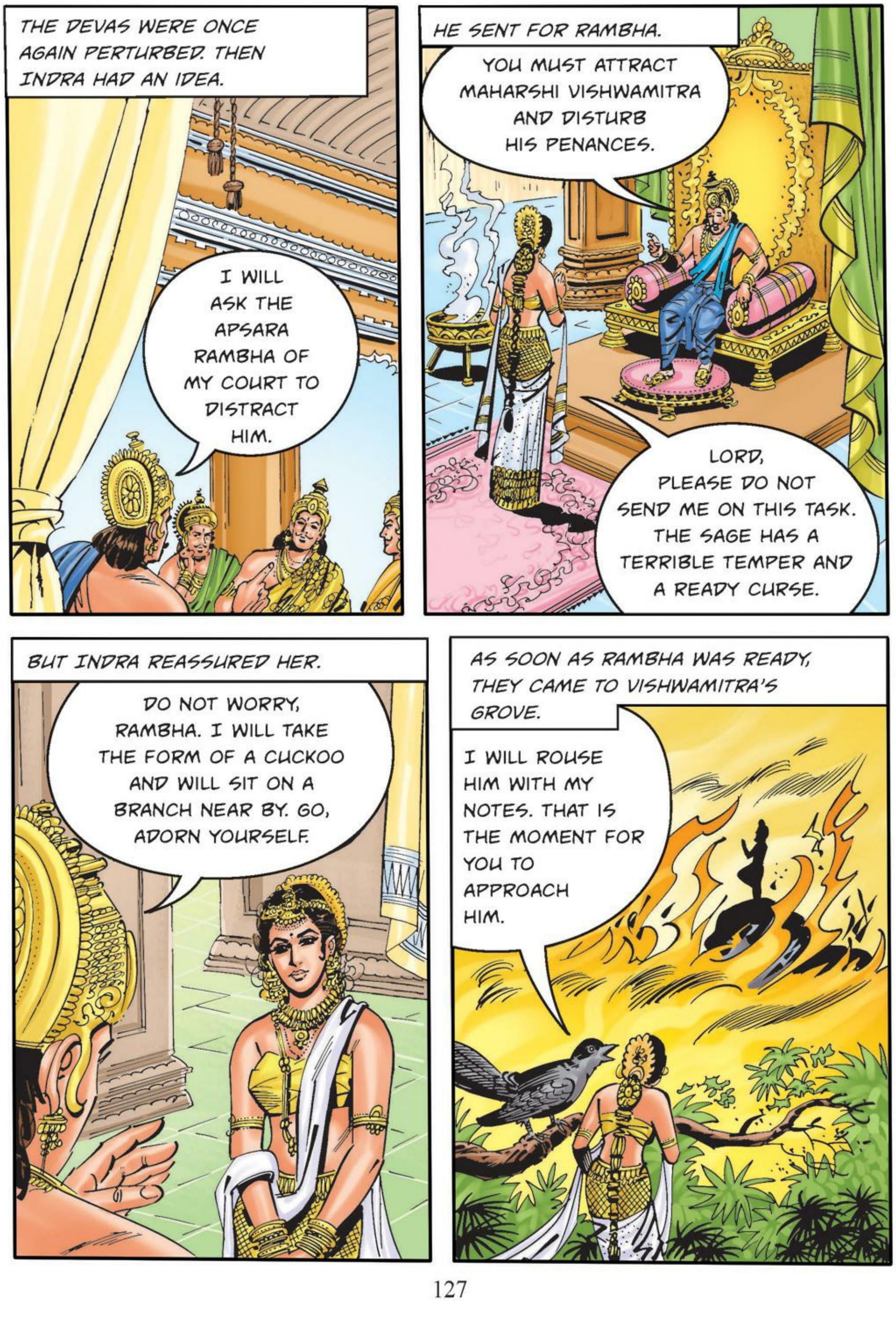

SO SEVERE WERE HIS PENANCES THERE THAT THE DEVAS WERE PERTURBED. THEY APPROACHED BRAHMA.
LET VISHWAMITRA HAVE THE TITLE OF MAHARSHI*.
SO BE IT.

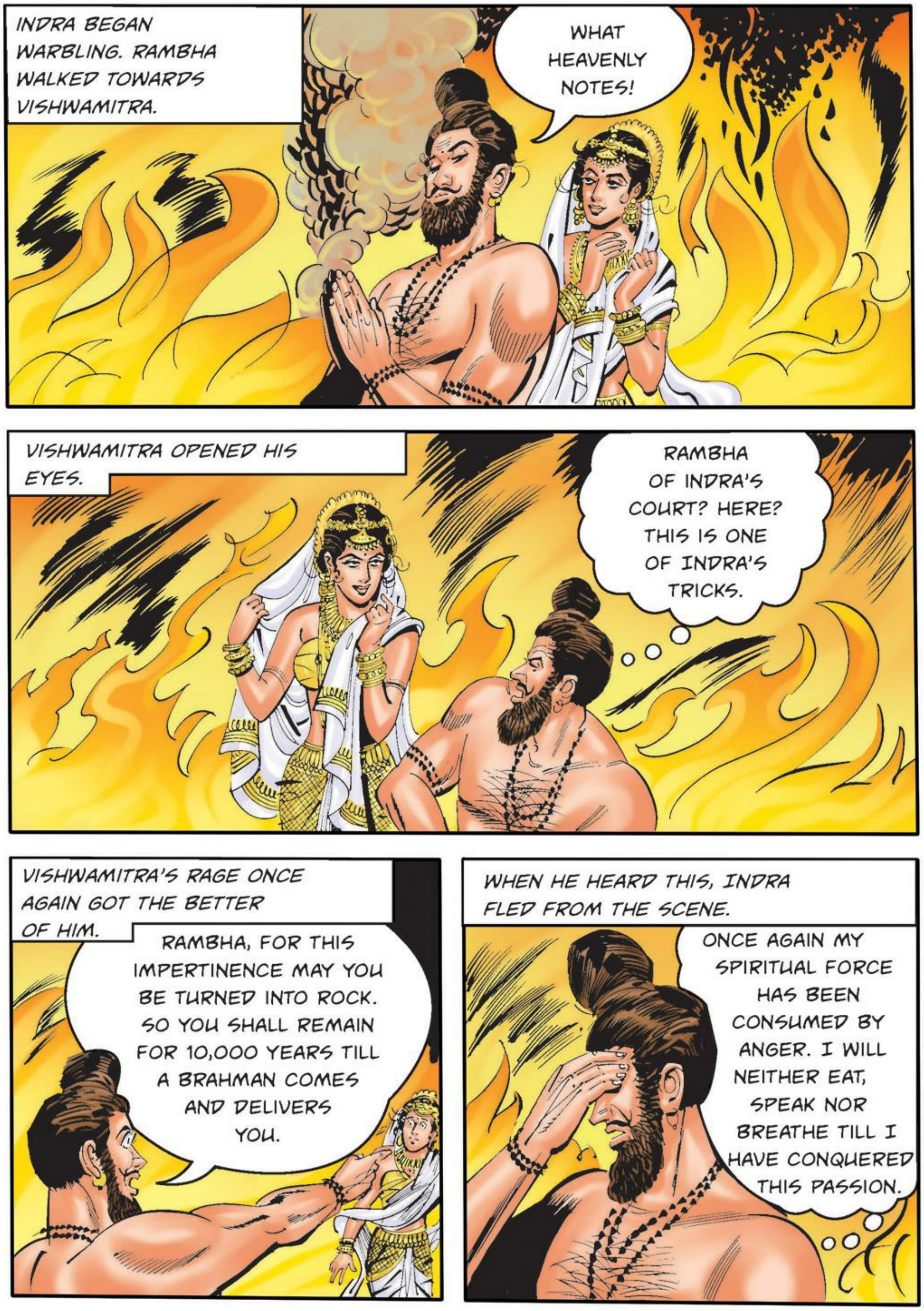

BRAHMA APPEARED BEFORE VISHWAMITRA.
O RISHI, I AM PLEASED WITH YOUR AUSTERITY. YOU HAVE EARNED THE STATUS OF A MAHARSHI.

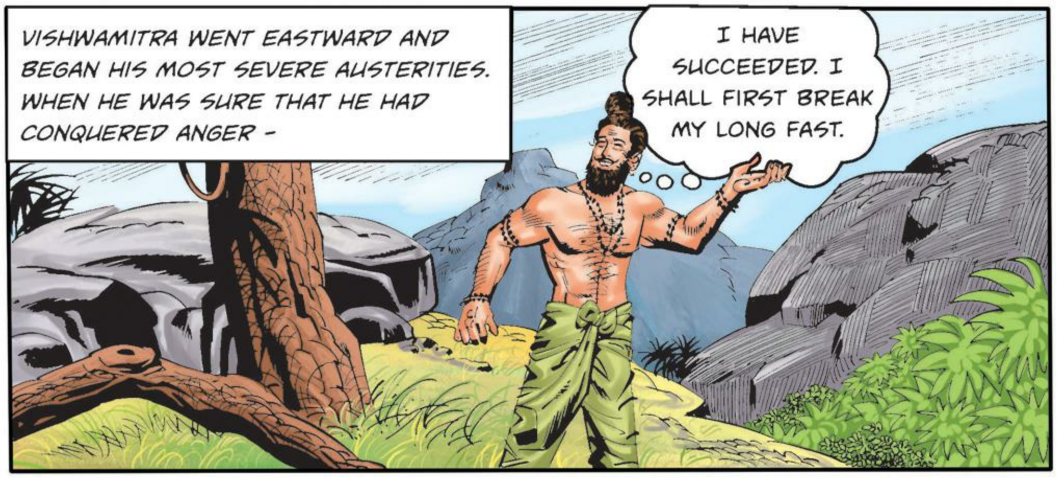

MY PENANCES WERE FOR THE STATUS OF A BRAHMARSHI. YOU REGARD ME ONLY AS A MAHARSHI. I WILL HAVE TO SUBDUE MY PASSIONS FURTHER.
YES. YOU HAVE NOT YET GAINED MASTERY OVER YOUR SENSES.

*A RISHI WHO HAS MASTERED KNOWLEDGE, HAS A VISION THAT INCLUDES THE WHOLE UNIVERSE AND YET IS PRECISE IN ACTION AND THOUGHT.


WHEN BRAHMA DEPARTED, VISHWAMITRA INTENSIFIED HIS AUSTERITIES.
IN SUMMER HE STOOD ON ONE FOOT IN THE MIDST OF FIVE BLAZING FIRES, LIVING ONLY ON AIR.
THROUGH THE RAINY SEASON HE CONTINUED STANDING.
AND IN WINTER HE STOOD IN THE MIDDLE OF A COLD STREAM.

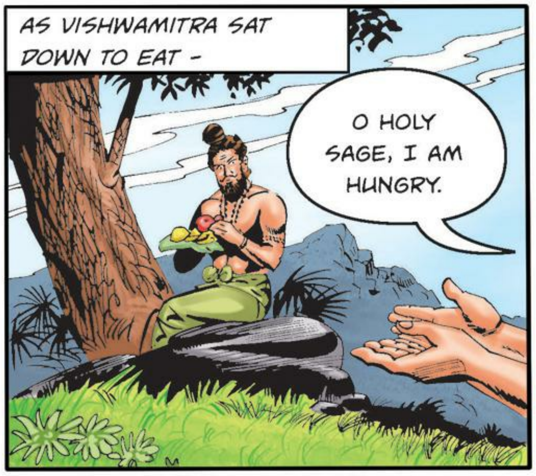

THE DEVAS WERE ONCE AGAIN PERTURBED. THEN INDRA HAD AN IDEA.
I WILL ASK THE APSARA RAMBHA OF MY COURT TO DISTRACT HIM.
HE SENT FOR RAMBHA.
YOU MUST ATTRACT MAHARSHI VISHWAMITRA AND DISTURB HIS PENANCES.
LORD, PLEASE DO NOT SEND ME ON THIS TASK. THE SAGE HAS A TERRIBLE TEMPER AND A READY CURSE.
BUT INDRA REASSURED HER.
DO NOT WORRY, RAMBHA. I WILL TAKE THE FORM OF A CUCKOO AND WILL SIT ON A BRANCH NEAR BY. GO, ADORN YOURSELF.
AS SOON AS RAMBHA WAS READY, THEY CAME TO VISHWAMITRA'S GROVE.
I WILL ROUSE HIM WITH MY NOTES. THAT IS THE MOMENT FOR YOU TO APPROACH HIM.


INDRA BEGAN WARBLING. RAMBHA WALKED TOWARDS VISHWAMITRA.
WHAT HEAVENLY NOTES!
VISHWAMITRA OPENED HIS EYES.
RAMBHA OF INDRA'S COURT? HERE? THIS IS ONE OF INDRA'S TRICKS.
VISHWAMITRA'S RAGE ONCE AGAIN GOT THE BETTER OF HIM.
RAMBHA, FOR THIS IMPERTINENCE MAY YOU BE TURNED INTO ROCK. SO YOU SHALL REMAIN FOR 10,000 YEARS TILL A BRAHMAN COMES AND DELIVERS YOU.
WHEN HE HEARD THIS, INDRA FLED FROM THE SCENE.
ONCE AGAIN MY SPIRITUAL FORCE HAS BEEN CONSUMED BY ANGER. I WILL NEITHER EAT, SPEAK NOR BREATHE TILL I HAVE CONQUERED THIS PASSION.



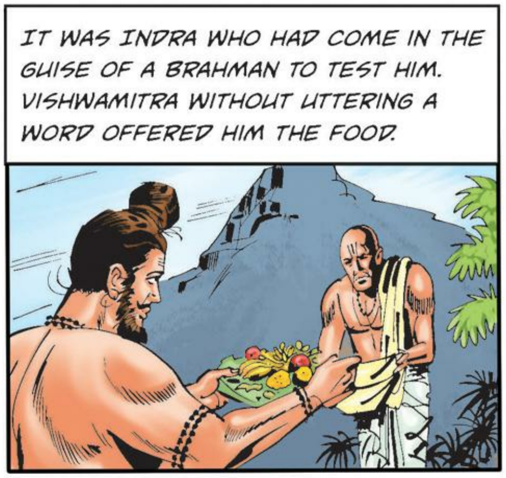
VISHWAMITRA WENT EASTWARD AND BEGAN HIS MOST SEVERE AUSTERITIES. WHEN HE WAS SURE THAT HE HAD CONQUERED ANGER –

I HAVE SUCCEEDED. I SHALL FIRST BREAK MY LONG FAST.

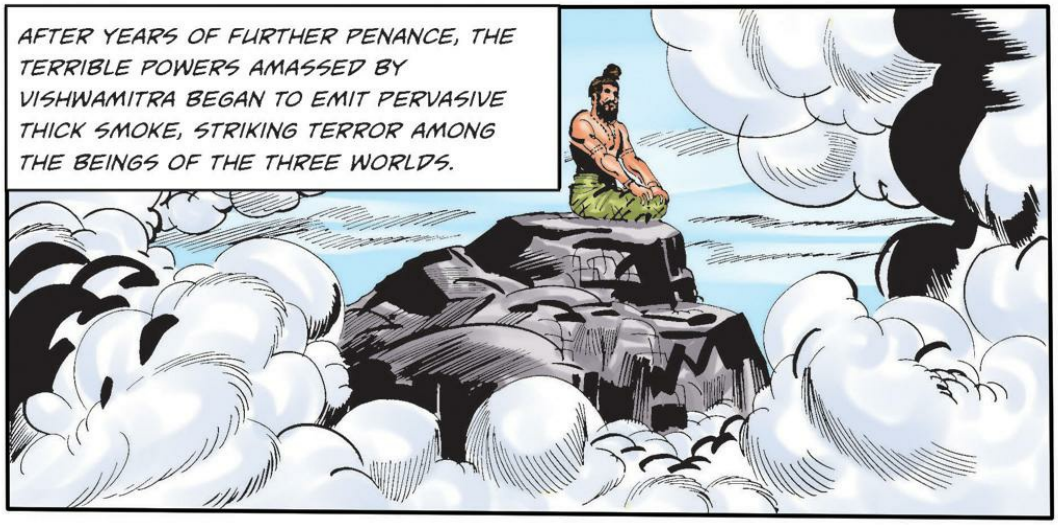


AS VISHWAMITRA SAT DOWN TO EAT –

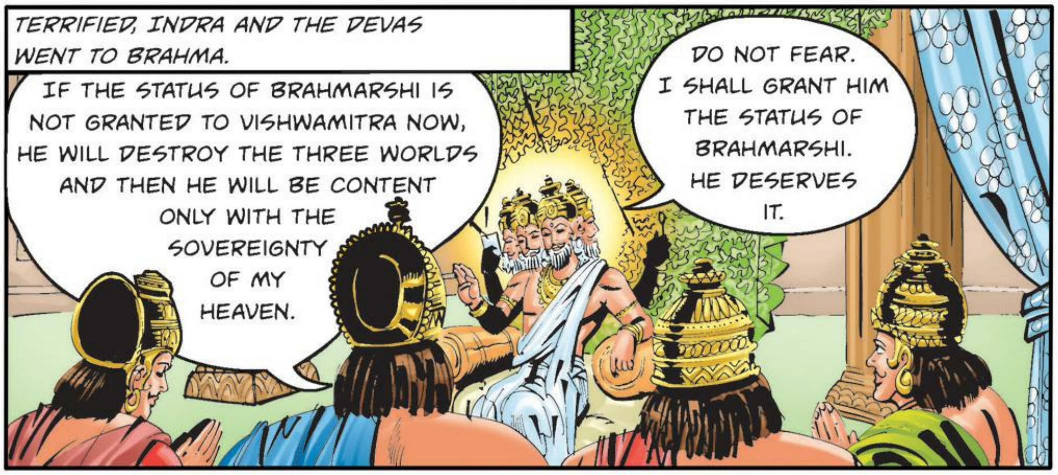
O HOLY SAGE, I AM HUNGRY.

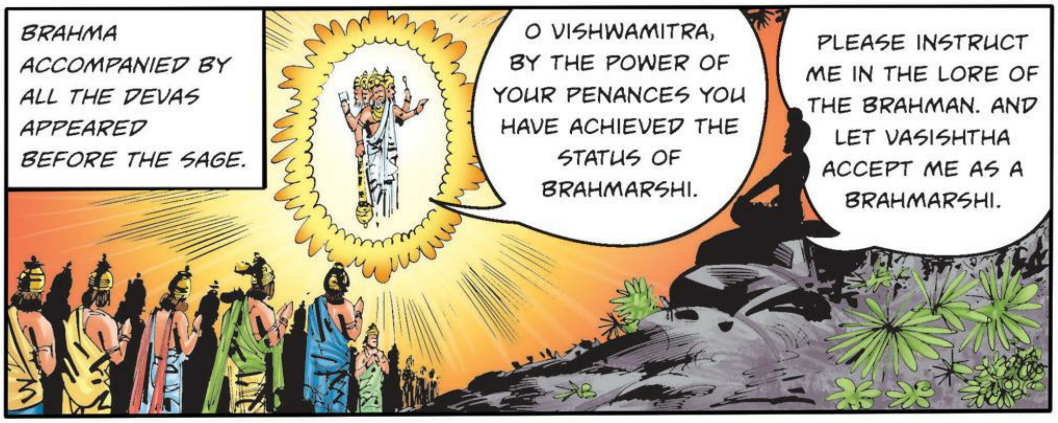


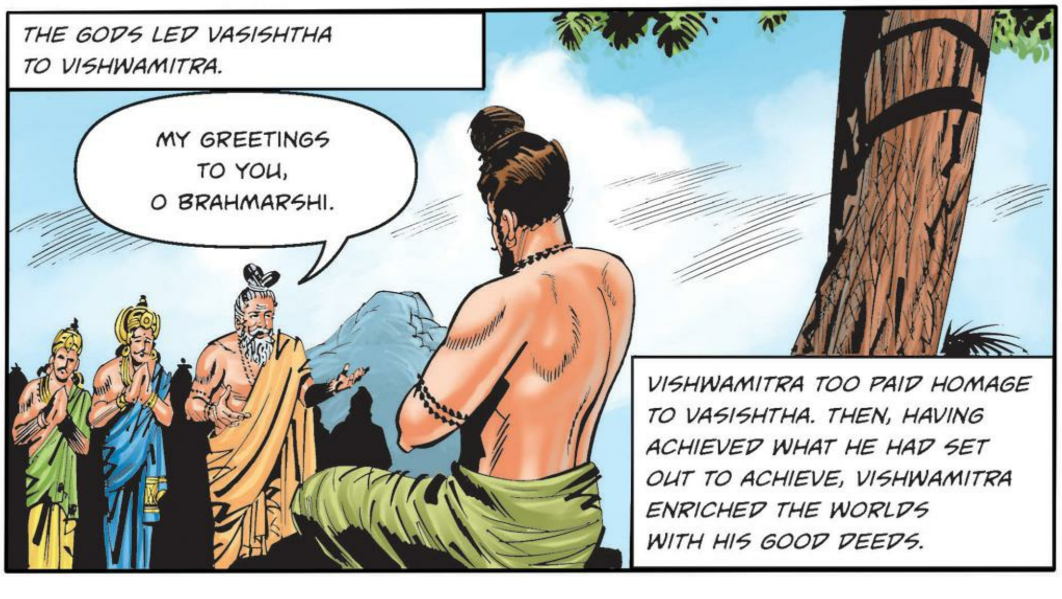
IT WAS INDRA WHO HAD COME IN THE GUISE OF A BRAHMAN TO TEST HIM. VISHWAMITRA WITHOUT UTTERING A WORD OFFERED HIM THE FOOD.



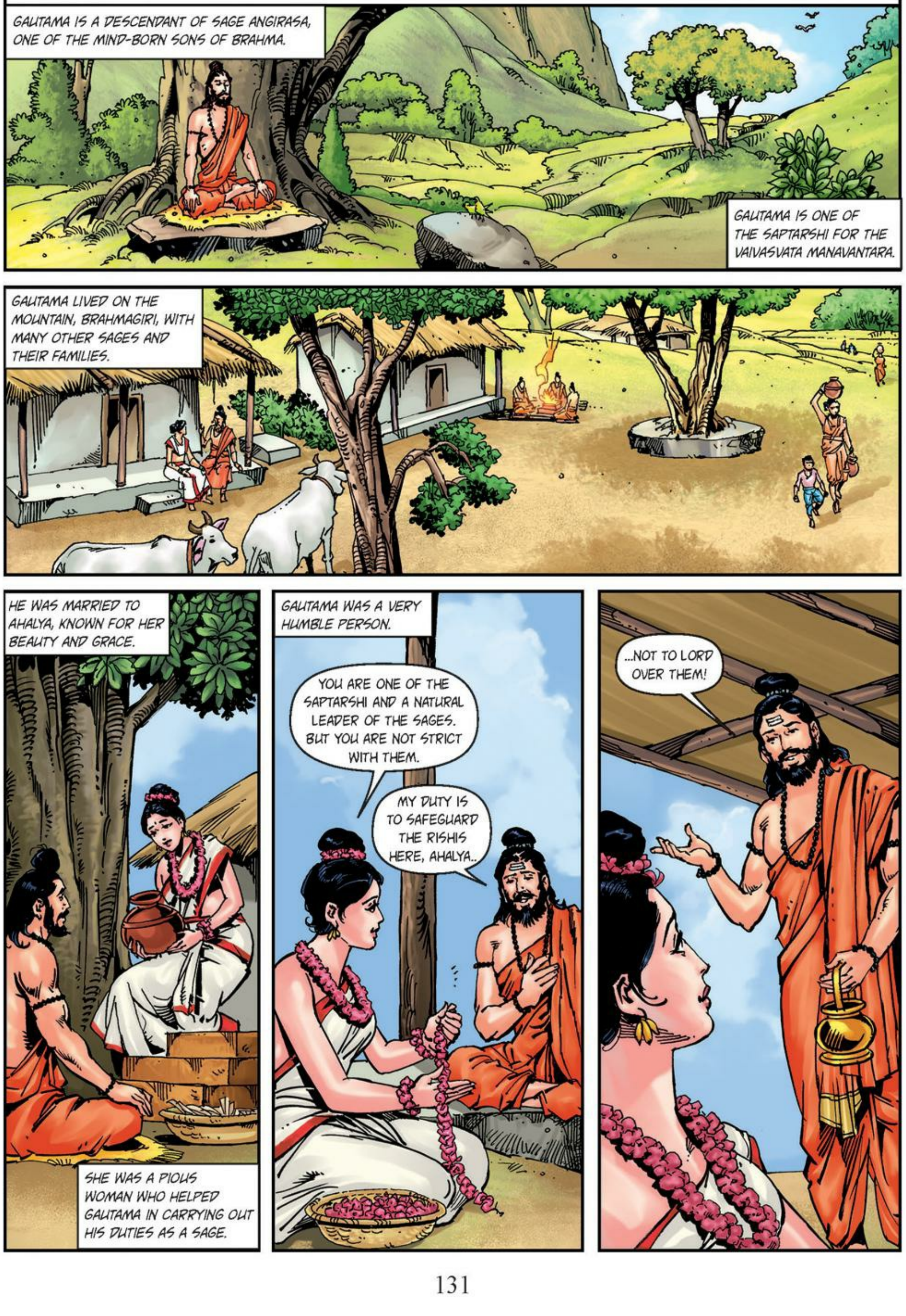
AFTER YEARS OF FURTHER PENANCE, THE TERRIBLE POWERS AMASSED BY VISHWAMITRA BEGAN TO EMIT PERVASIVE THICK SMOKE, STRIKING TERROR AMONG THE BEINGS OF THE THREE WORLDS.

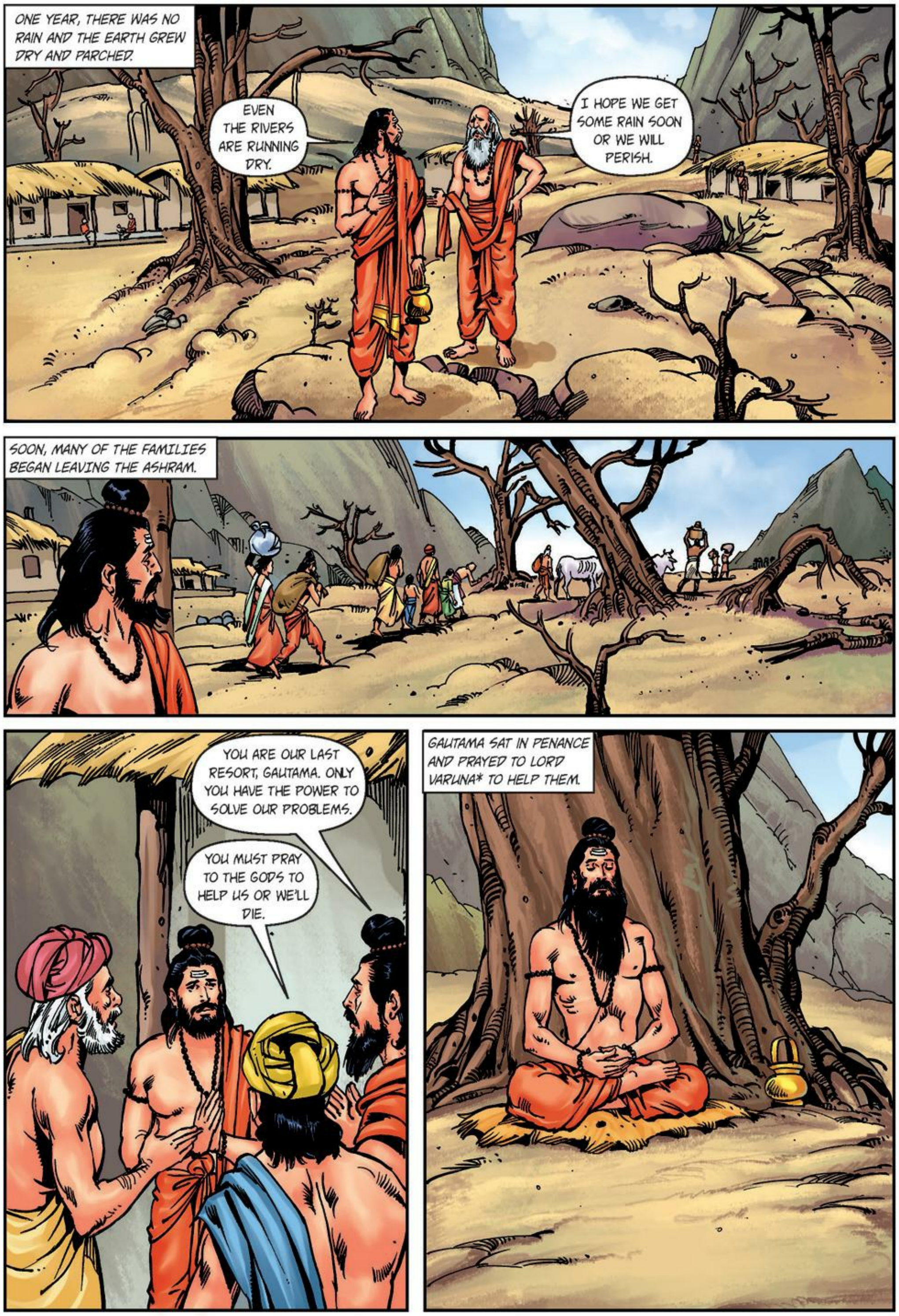

TERRIFIED, INDRA AND THE DEVAS WENT TO BRAHMA.
IF THE STATUS OF BRAHMARSHI IS NOT GRANTED TO VISHWAMITRA NOW, HE WILL DESTROY THE THREE WORLDS AND THEN HE WILL BE CONTENT ONLY WITH THE SOVEREIGNTY OF MY HEAVEN.
DO NOT FEAR. I SHALL GRANT HIM THE STATUS OF BRAHMARSHI. HE DESERVES IT.


BRAHMA ACCOMPANIED BY ALL THE DEVAS APPEARED BEFORE THE SAGE.
O VISHWAMITRA, BY THE POWER OF YOUR PENANCES YOU HAVE ACHIEVED THE STATUS OF BRAHMARSHI.
PLEASE INSTRUCT ME IN THE LORE OF THE BRAHMAN. AND LET VASISHTHA ACCEPT ME AS A BRAHMARSHI.

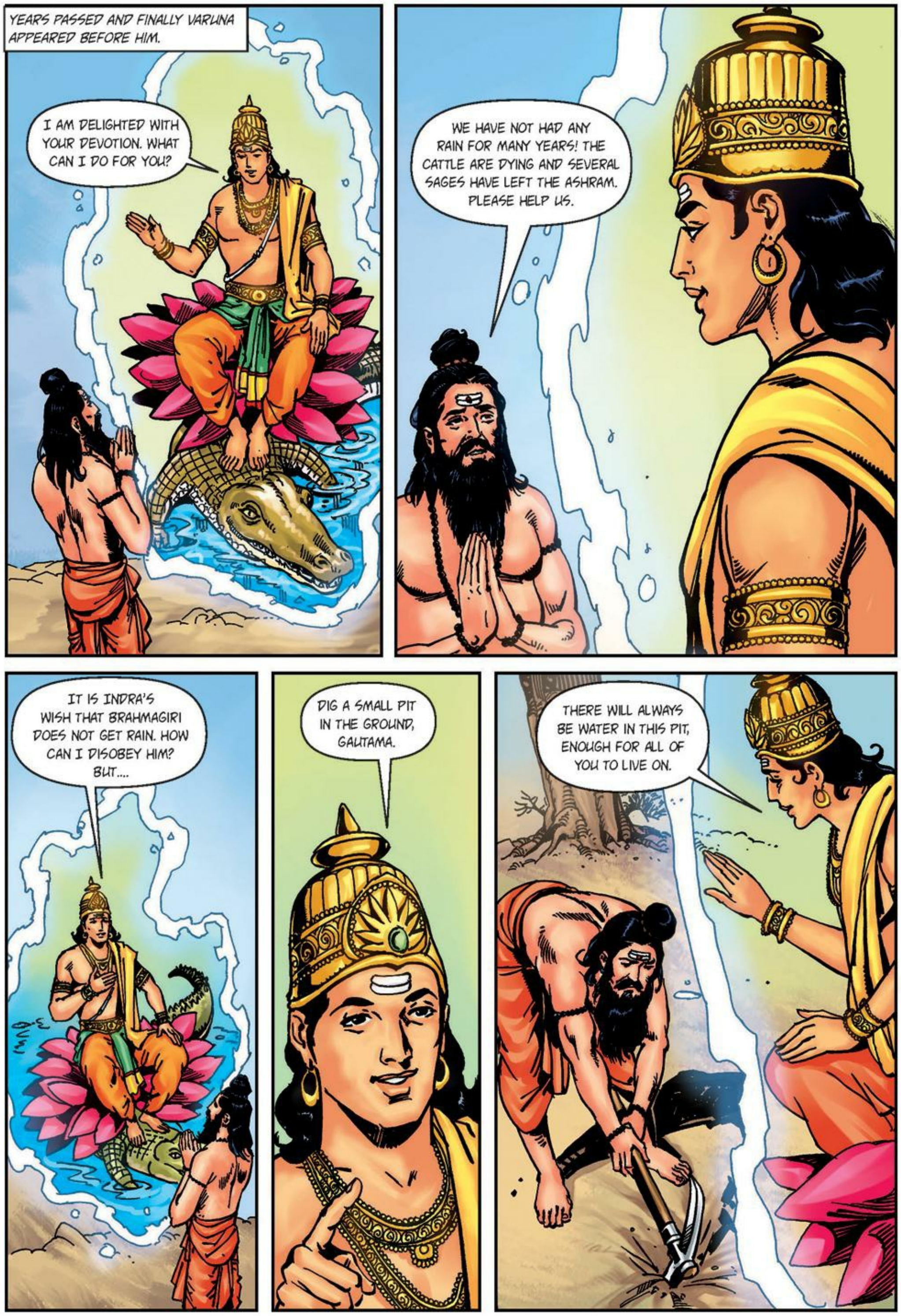

THE GODS LED VASISHTHA TO VISHWAMITRA.
MY GREETINGS TO YOU, O BRAHMARSHI.
VISHWAMITRA TOO PAID HOMAGE TO VASISHTHA. THEN, HAVING ACHIEVED WHAT HE HAD SET OUT TO ACHIEVE, VISHWAMITRA ENRICHED THE WORLDS WITH HIS GOOD DEEDS.

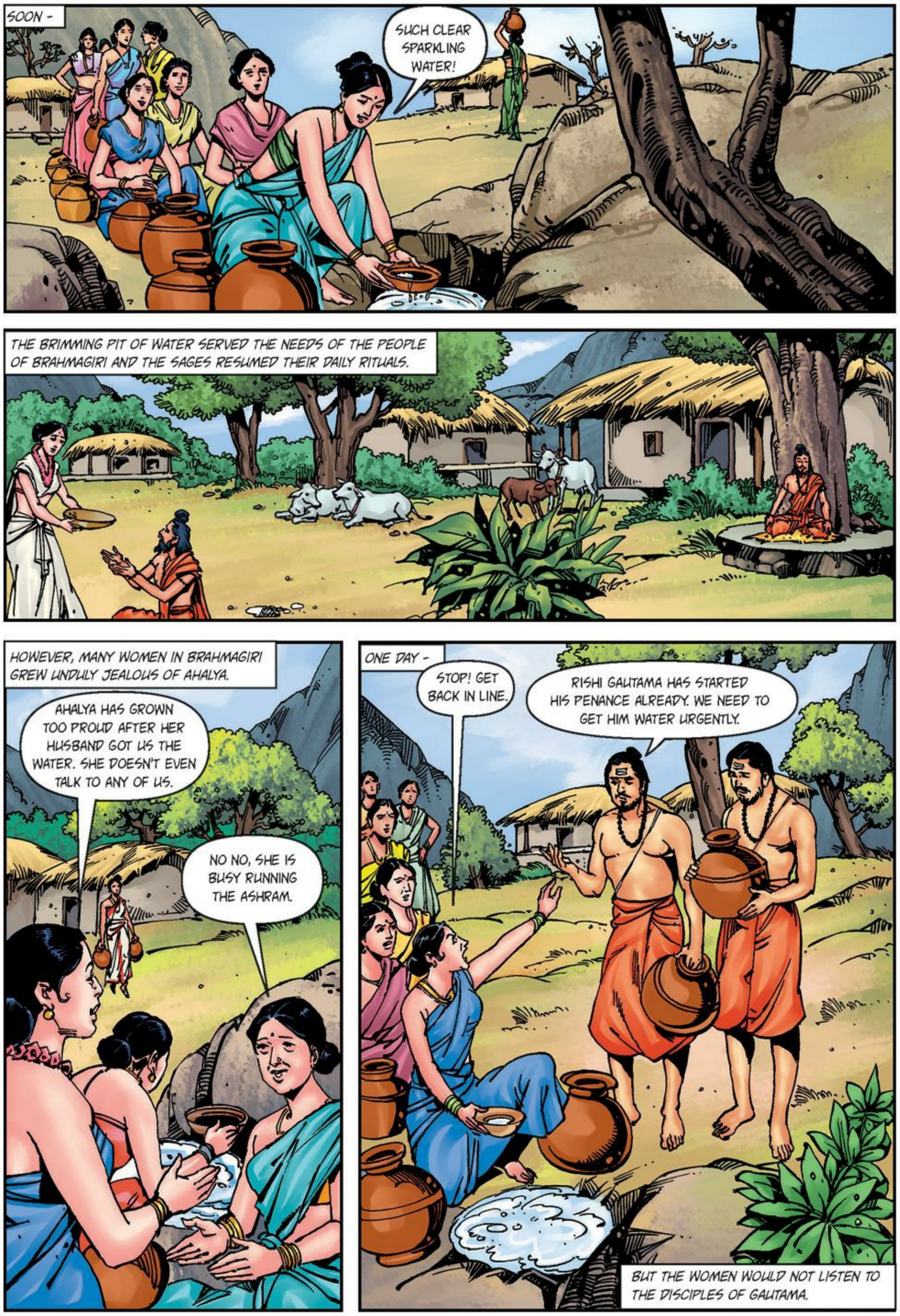
GAUTAMA AND AHALYA

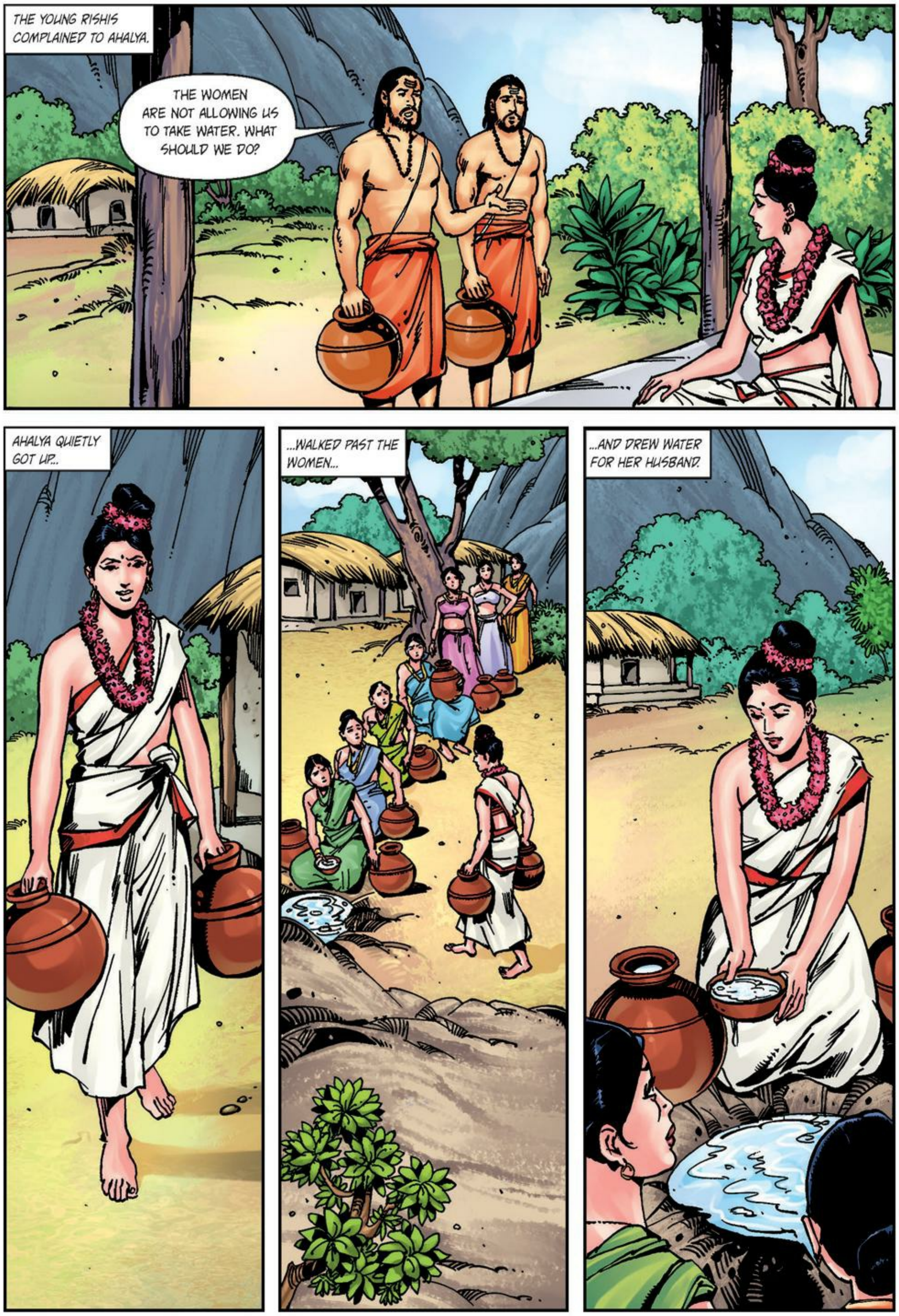

GAUTAMA IS A DESCENDANT OF SAGE ANGIRASA, ONE OF THE MIND-BORN SONS OF BRAHMA.
GAUTAMA IS ONE OF THE SAPTARSHI FOR THE VAIVASVATA MANAVANTARA.
GAUTAMA LIVED ON THE MOUNTAIN, BRAHMAGIRI, WITH MANY OTHER SAGES AND THEIR FAMILIES.
HE WAS MARRIED TO AHALYA, KNOWN FOR HER BEAUTY AND GRACE.
SHE WAS A PIOUS WOMAN WHO HELPED GAUTAMA IN CARRYING OUT HIS DUTIES AS A SAGE.
GAUTAMA WAS A VERY HUMBLE PERSON.
YOU ARE ONE OF THE SAPTARSHI AND A NATURAL LEADER OF THE SAGES. BUT YOU ARE NOT STRICT WITH THEM.
MY DUTY IS TO SAFEGUARD THE RISHIS HERE, AHALYA..
...NOT TO LORD OVER THEM!

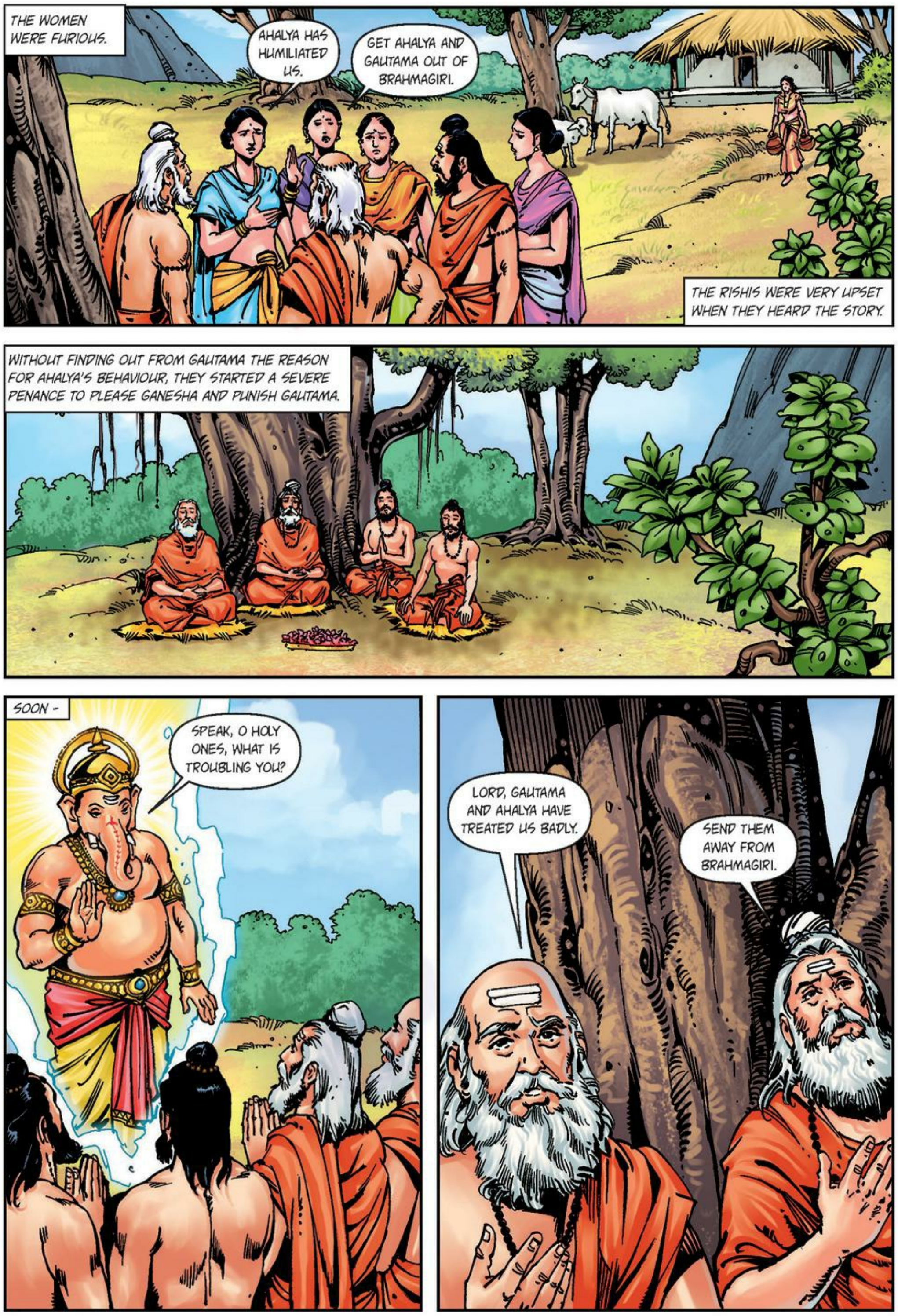

ONE YEAR, THERE WAS NO RAIN AND THE EARTH GREW DRY AND PARCHED.
EVEN THE RIVERS ARE RUNNING DRY.
I HOPE WE GET SOME RAIN SOON OR WE WILL PERISH.
SOON, MANY OF THE FAMILIES BEGAN LEAVING THE ASHRAM.
YOU ARE OUR LAST RESORT, GAUTAMA. ONLY YOU HAVE THE POWER TO SOLVE OUR PROBLEMS.
YOU MUST PRAY TO THE GODS TO HELP US OR WE'LL DIE.
GAUTAMA SAT IN PENANCE AND PRAYED TO LORD VARUNA* TO HELP THEM.

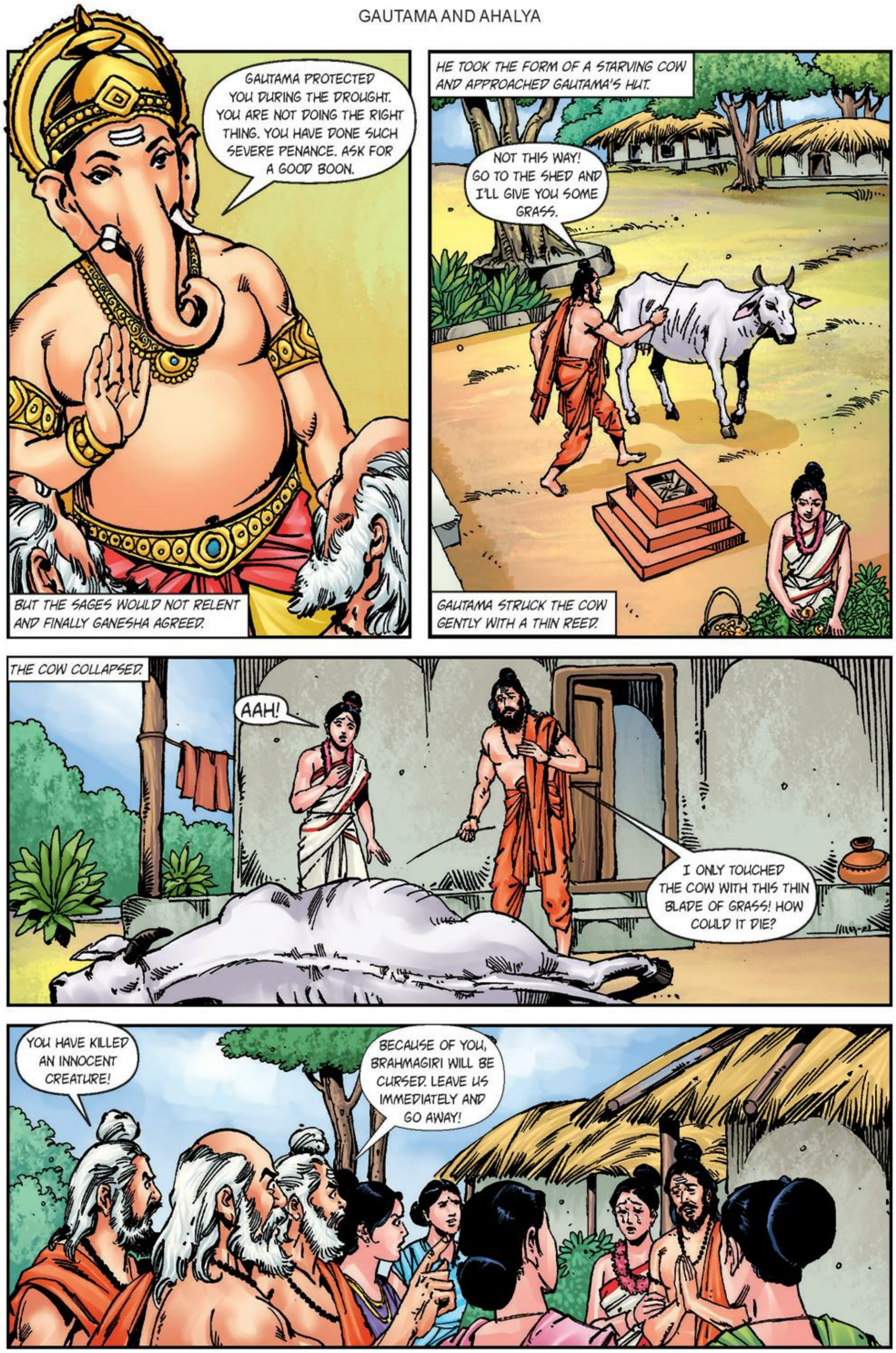
*VARUNA IS THE GOD OF ALL FORMS OF WATER, PARTICULARLY THE OCEANS.

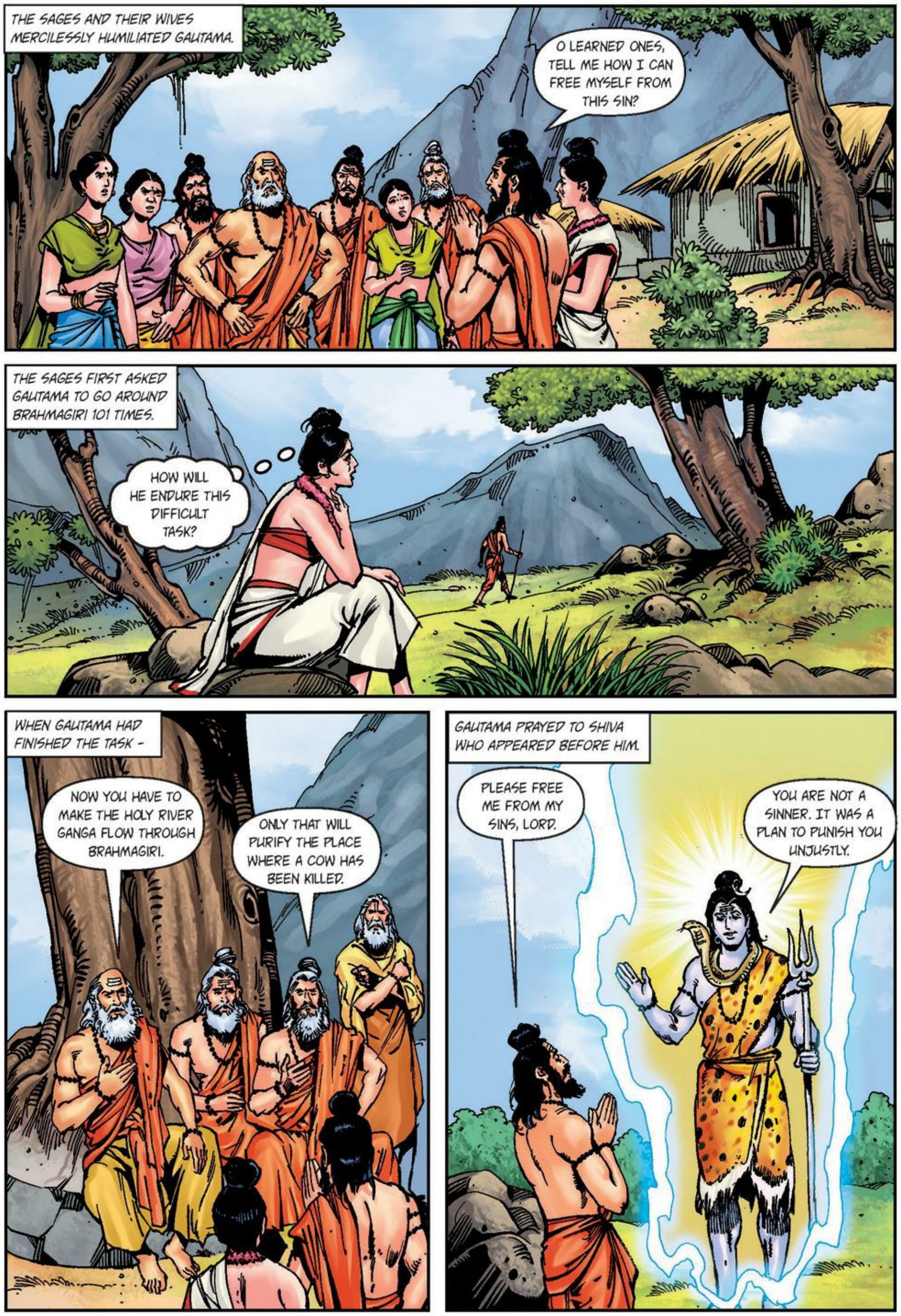

YEARS PASSED AND FINALLY VARUNA APPEARED BEFORE HIM.
I AM DELIGHTED WITH YOUR DEVOTION. WHAT CAN I DO FOR YOU?
WE HAVE NOT HAD ANY RAIN FOR MANY YEARS! THE CATTLE ARE DYING AND SEVERAL SAGES HAVE LEFT THE ASHRAM. PLEASE HELP US.
IT IS INDRA'S WISH THAT BRAHMAGIRI DOES NOT GET RAIN. HOW CAN I DISOBEY HIM? BUT....
DIG A SMALL PIT IN THE GROUND, GAUTAMA.
THERE WILL ALWAYS BE WATER IN THIS PIT, ENOUGH FOR ALL OF YOU TO LIVE ON.

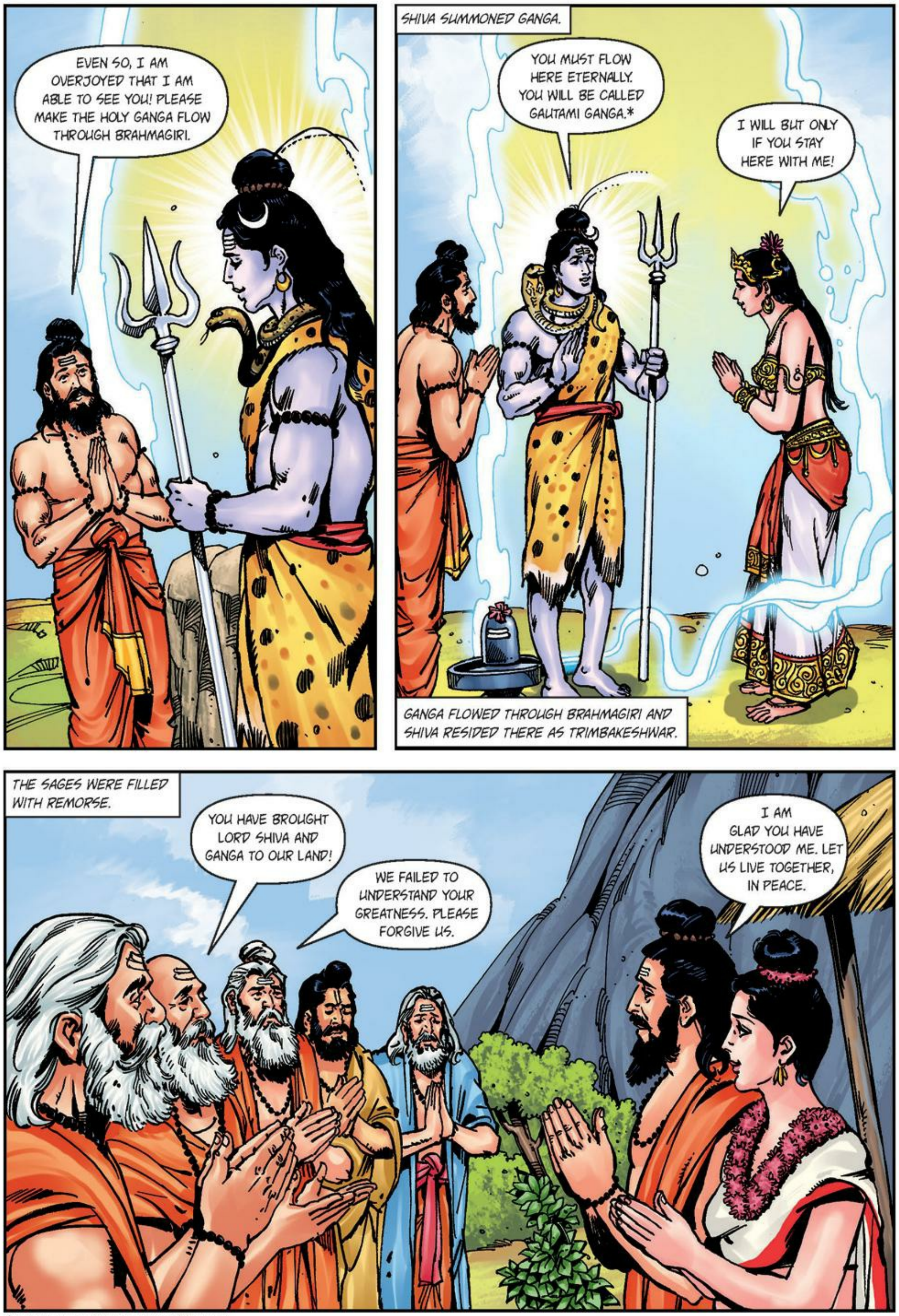

SOON -
SUCH CLEAR SPARKLING WATER!
THE BRIMMING PIT OF WATER SERVED THE NEEDS OF THE PEOPLE OF BRAHMAGIRI AND THE SAGES RESUMED THEIR DAILY RITUALS.
HOWEVER, MANY WOMEN IN BRAHMAGIRI GREW UNDULY JEALOUS OF AHALYA.
AHALYA HAS GROWN TOO PROUD AFTER HER HUSBAND GOT US THE WATER. SHE DOESN'T EVEN TALK TO ANY OF US.
NO NO, SHE IS BUSY RUNNING THE ASHRAM.
ONE DAY -
STOP! GET BACK IN LINE.
RISHI GAUTAMA HAS STARTED HIS PENANCE ALREADY. WE NEED TO GET HIM WATER URGENTLY.
BUT THE WOMEN WOULD NOT LISTEN TO THE DISCIPLES OF GAUTAMA.


THE YOUNG RISHIS COMPLAINED TO AHALYA.
THE WOMEN ARE NOT ALLOWING US TO TAKE WATER. WHAT SHOULD WE DO?
AHALYA QUIETLY GOT UP...
...WALKED PAST THE WOMEN...
...AND DREW WATER FOR HER HUSBAND.


THE WOMEN WERE FURIOUS.
AHALYA HAS HUMILIATED US.
GET AHALYA AND GAUTAMA OUT OF BRAHMAGIRI.
THE RISHIS WERE VERY UPSET WHEN THEY HEARD THE STORY.
WITHOUT FINDING OUT FROM GAUTAMA THE REASON FOR AHALYA'S BEHAVIOUR, THEY STARTED A SEVERE PENANCE TO PLEASE GANESHA AND PUNISH GAUTAMA.
SOON -
SPEAK, O HOLY ONES, WHAT IS TROUBLING YOU?
LORD, GAUTAMA AND AHALYA HAVE TREATED US BADLY.
SEND THEM AWAY FROM BRAHMAGIRI.

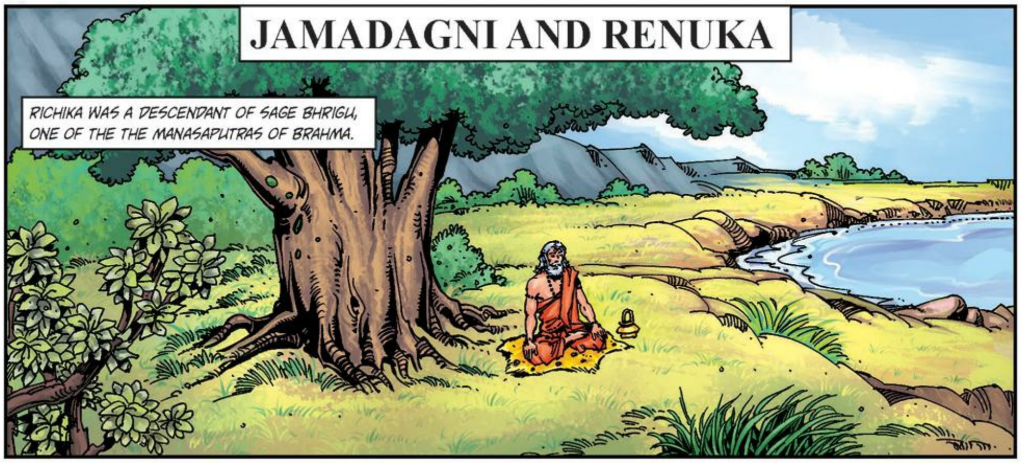

GAUTAMA PROTECTED YOU DURING THE DROUGHT. YOU ARE NOT DOING THE RIGHT THING. YOU HAVE DONE SUCH SEVERE PENANCE. ASK FOR A GOOD BOON.
BUT THE SAGES WOULD NOT RELENT AND FINALLY GANESHA AGREED.
HE TOOK THE FORM OF A STARVING COW AND APPROACHED GAUTAMA'S HUT.
NOT THIS WAY! GO TO THE SHED AND I'LL GIVE YOU SOME GRASS.
GAUTAMA STRUCK THE COW GENTLY WITH A THIN REED.
THE COW COLLAPSED.
AAH!
I ONLY TOUCHED THE COW WITH THIS THIN BLADE OF GRASS! HOW COULD IT DIE?
YOU HAVE KILLED AN INNOCENT CREATURE!
BECAUSE OF YOU, BRAHMAGIRI WILL BE CURSED. LEAVE US IMMEDIATELY AND GO AWAY!

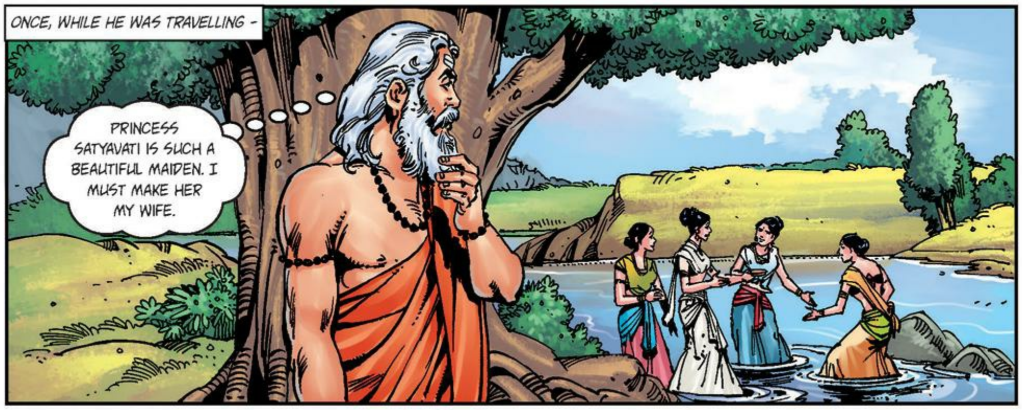

THE SAGES AND THEIR WIVES MERCILESSLY HUMILIATED GAUTAMA.
O LEARNED ONES, TELL ME HOW I CAN FREE MYSELF FROM THIS SIN?
THE SAGES FIRST ASKED GAUTAMA TO GO AROUND BRAHMAGIRI 101 TIMES.
HOW WILL HE ENDURE THIS DIFFICULT TASK?
WHEN GAUTAMA HAD FINISHED THE TASK –
NOW YOU HAVE TO MAKE THE HOLY RIVER GANGA FLOW THROUGH BRAHMAGIRI.
ONLY THAT WILL PURIFY THE PLACE WHERE A COW HAS BEEN KILLED.
GAUTAMA PRAYED TO SHIVA WHO APPEARED BEFORE HIM.
PLEASE FREE ME FROM MY SINS, LORD.
YOU ARE NOT A SINNER. IT WAS A PLAN TO PUNISH YOU UNJUSTLY.

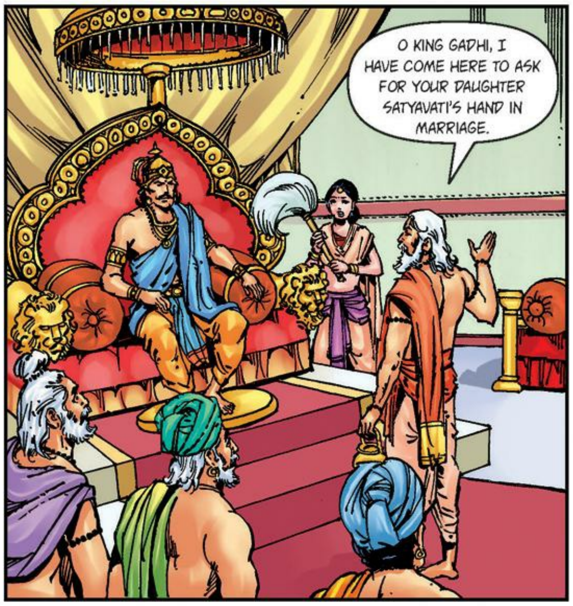

EVEN SO, I AM OVERJOYED THAT I AM ABLE TO SEE YOU! PLEASE MAKE THE HOLY GANGA FLOW THROUGH BRAHMAGIRI.
SHIVA SUMMONED GANGA.
YOU MUST FLOW HERE ETERNALLY. YOU WILL BE CALLED GAUTAMI GANGA.*
I WILL BUT ONLY IF YOU STAY HERE WITH ME!
GANGA FLOWED THROUGH BRAHMAGIRI AND SHIVA RESIDED THERE AS TRIMBAKESHWAR.
THE SAGES WERE FILLED WITH REMORSE.
YOU HAVE BROUGHT LORD SHIVA AND GANGA TO OUR LAND!
WE FAILED TO UNDERSTAND YOUR GREATNESS. PLEASE FORGIVE US.
I AM GLAD YOU HAVE UNDERSTOOD ME. LET US LIVE TOGETHER, IN PEACE.

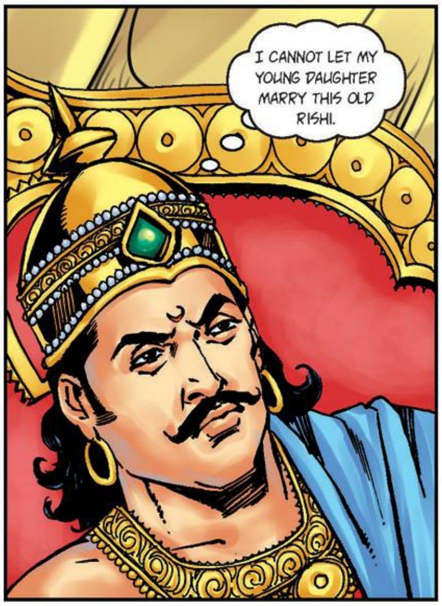
*GAUTAMI GANGA IS RIVER GODAVARI, ALSO CALLED DAKSHINA GANGA.

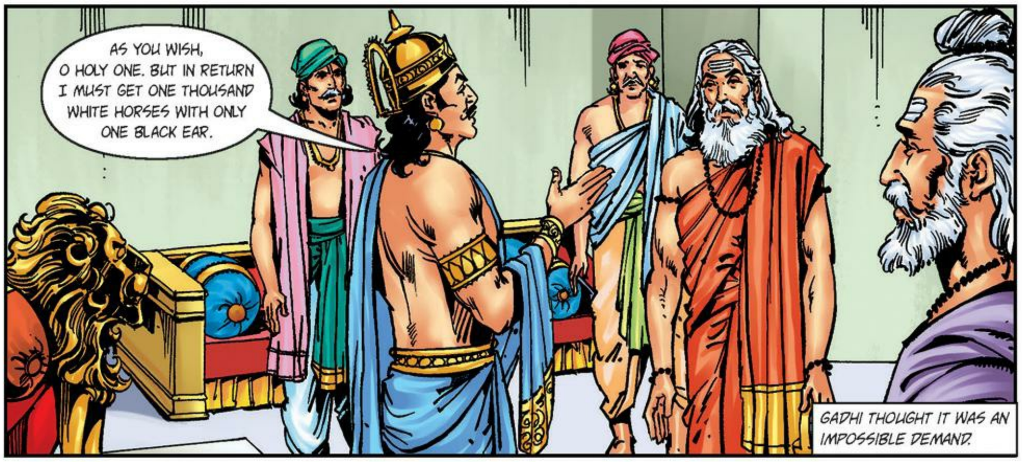
JAMADAGNI AND RENUKA


RICHIKA WAS A DESCENDANT OF SAGE BHRIGU, ONE OF THE THE MANASAPUTRAS OF BRAHMA.


ONCE, WHILE HE WAS TRAVELLING -
PRINCESS SATYAVATI IS SUCH A BEAUTIFUL MAIDEN. I MUST MAKE HER MY WIFE.

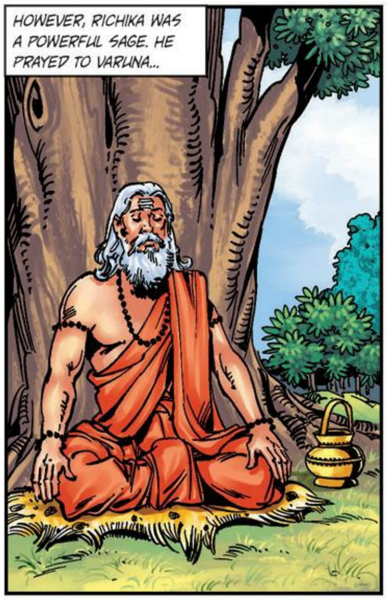

O KING GADHI, I HAVE COME HERE TO ASK FOR YOUR DAUGHTER SATYAVATI'S HAND IN MARRIAGE.


I CANNOT LET MY YOUNG DAUGHTER MARRY THIS OLD RISHI.

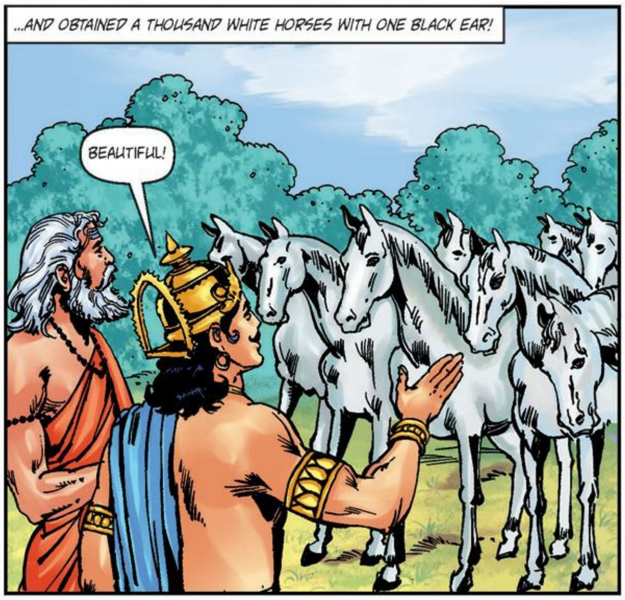

AS YOU WISH, O HOLY ONE. BUT IN RETURN I MUST GET ONE THOUSAND WHITE HORSES WITH ONLY ONE BLACK EAR.

GADHI THOUGHT IT WAS AN IMPOSSIBLE DEMAND.

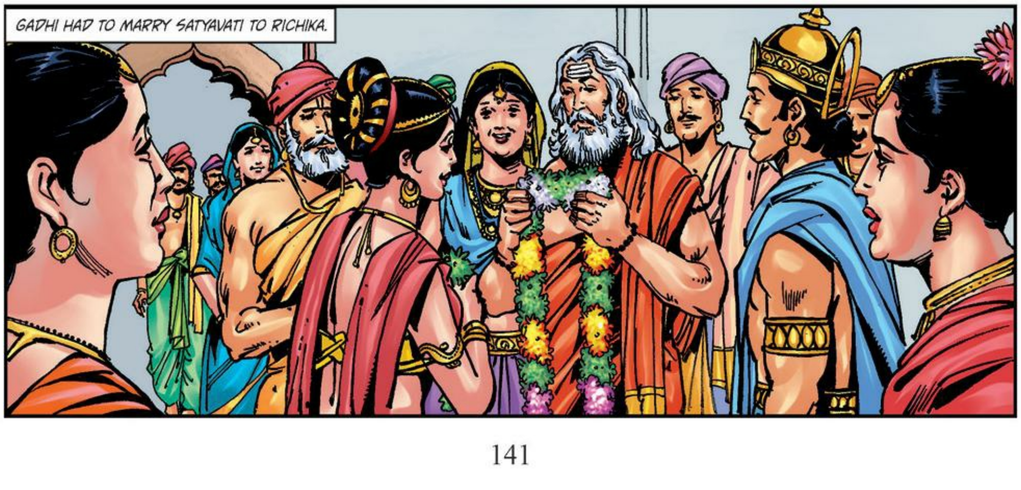
HOWEVER, RICHIKA WAS A POWERFUL SAGE. HE PRAYED TO VARUNA...

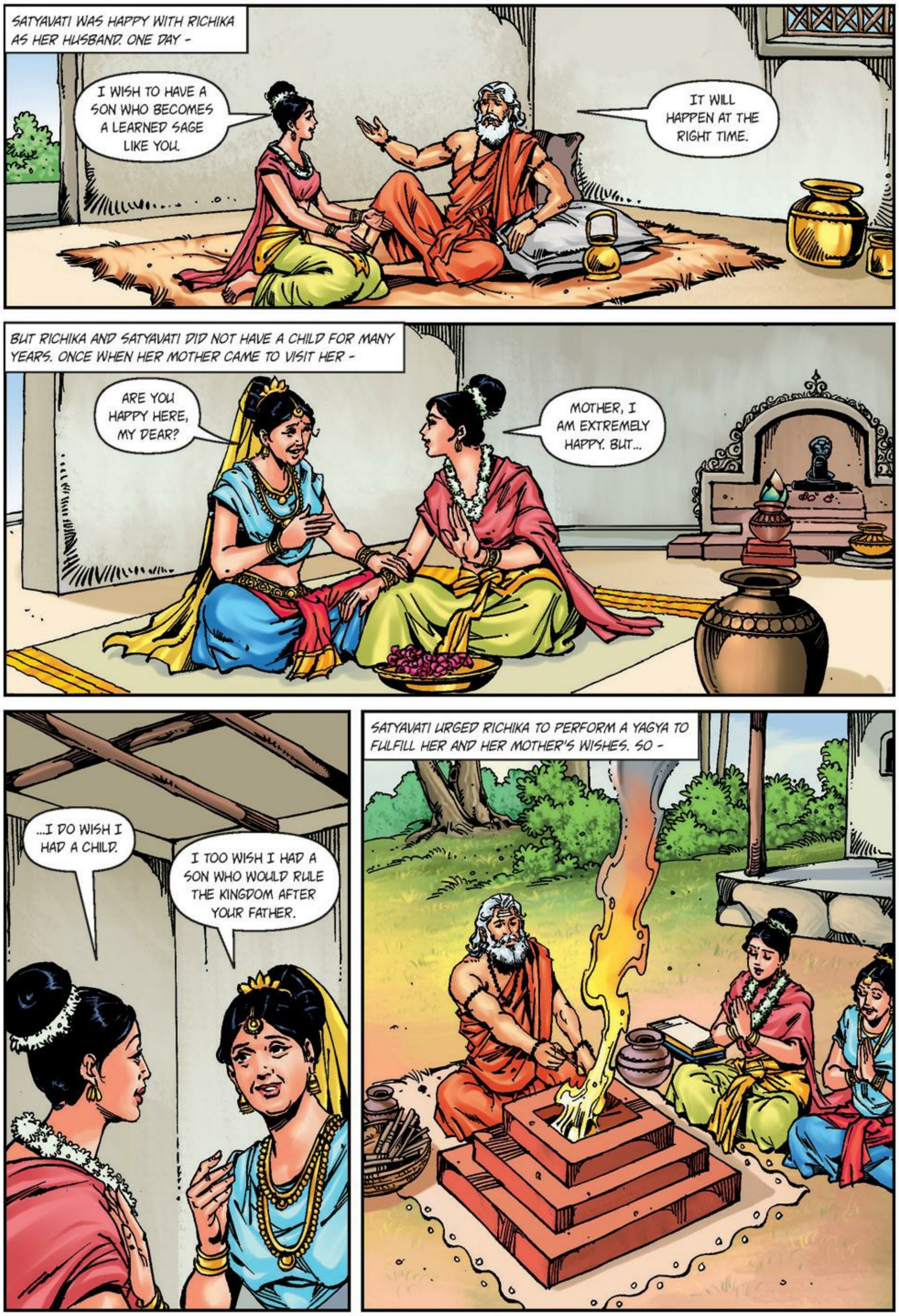


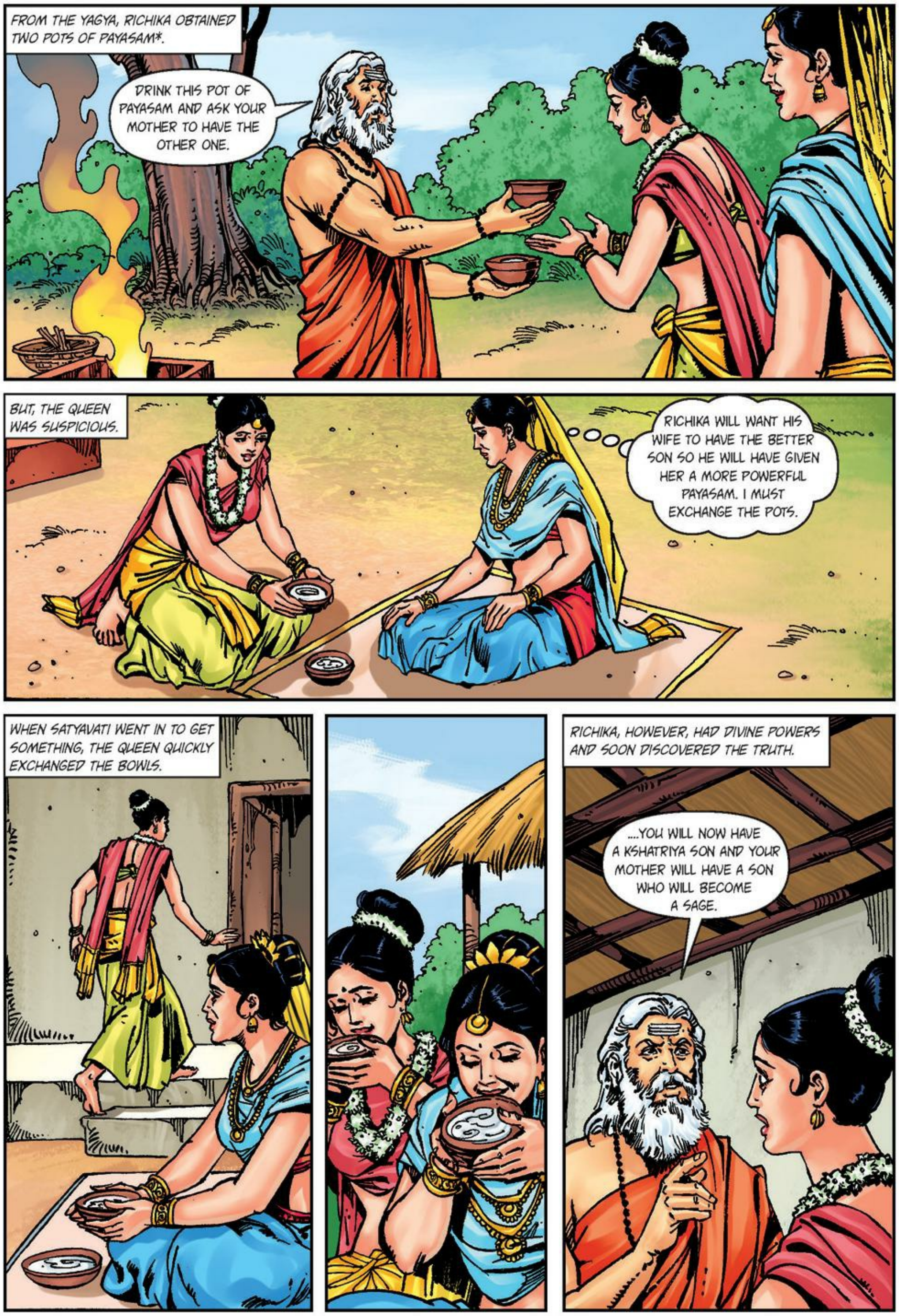
...AND OBTAINED A THOUSAND WHITE HORSES WITH ONE BLACK EAR!



GADHI HAD TO MARRY SATYAVATI TO RICHIKA.




SATYAVATI WAS HAPPY WITH RICHIKA AS HER HUSBAND. ONE DAY -
I WISH TO HAVE A SON WHO BECOMES A LEARNED SAGE LIKE YOU.
IT WILL HAPPEN AT THE RIGHT TIME.
BUT RICHIKA AND SATYAVATI DID NOT HAVE A CHILD FOR MANY YEARS. ONCE WHEN HER MOTHER CAME TO VISIT HER -
ARE YOU HAPPY HERE, MY DEAR?
MOTHER, I AM EXTREMELY HAPPY. BUT...
...I DO WISH I HAD A CHILD.
I TOO WISH I HAD A SON WHO WOULD RULE THE KINGDOM AFTER YOUR FATHER.
SATYAVATI URGED RICHIKA TO PERFORM A YAGYA TO FULFILL HER AND HER MOTHER'S WISHES. SO -


FROM THE YAGYA, RICHIKA OBTAINED TWO POTS OF PAYASAM*.
DRINK THIS POT OF PAYASAM AND ASK YOUR MOTHER TO HAVE THE OTHER ONE.
BUT, THE QUEEN WAS SUSPICIOUS.
RICHIKA WILL WANT HIS WIFE TO HAVE THE BETTER SON SO HE WILL HAVE GIVEN HER A MORE POWERFUL PAYASAM. I MUST EXCHANGE THE POTS.
WHEN SATYAVATI WENT IN TO GET SOMETHING, THE QUEEN QUICKLY EXCHANGED THE BOWLS.
RICHIKA, HOWEVER, HAD DIVINE POWERS AND SOON DISCOVERED THE TRUTH.
....YOU WILL NOW HAVE A KSHATRIYA SON AND YOUR MOTHER WILL HAVE A SON WHO WILL BECOME A SAGE.

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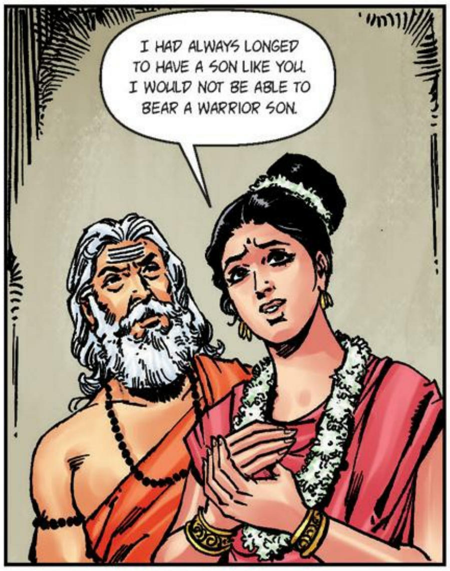
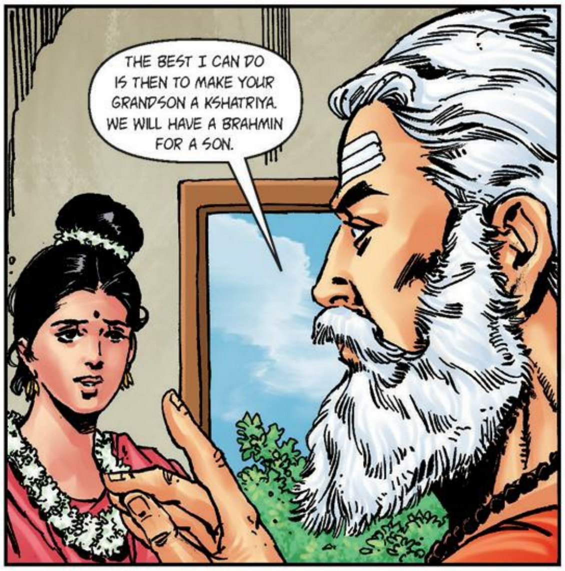
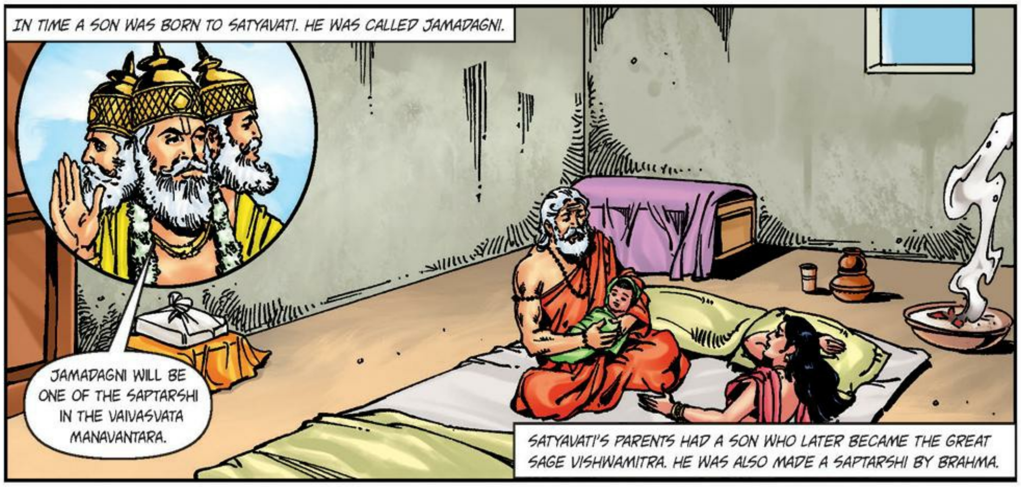
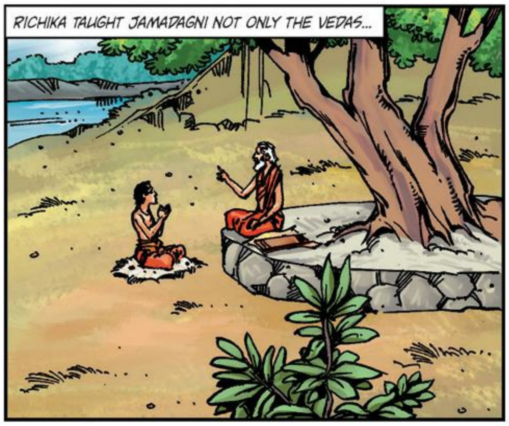
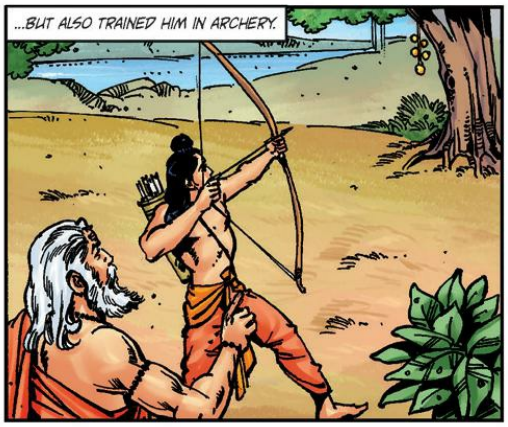
*MILK AND RICE PUDDING

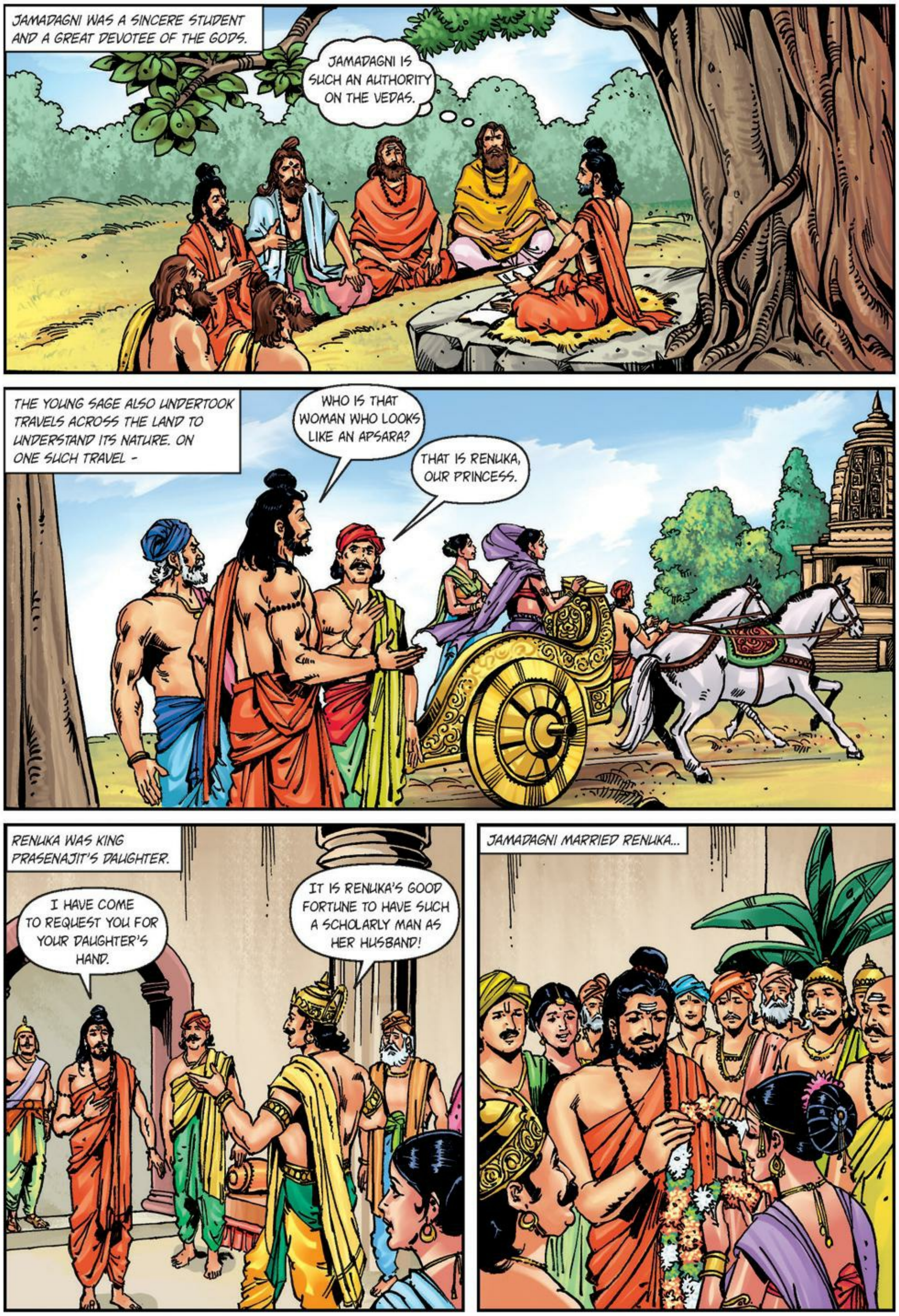

I HAD ALWAYS LONGED TO HAVE A SON LIKE YOU. I WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO BEAR A WARRIOR SON.

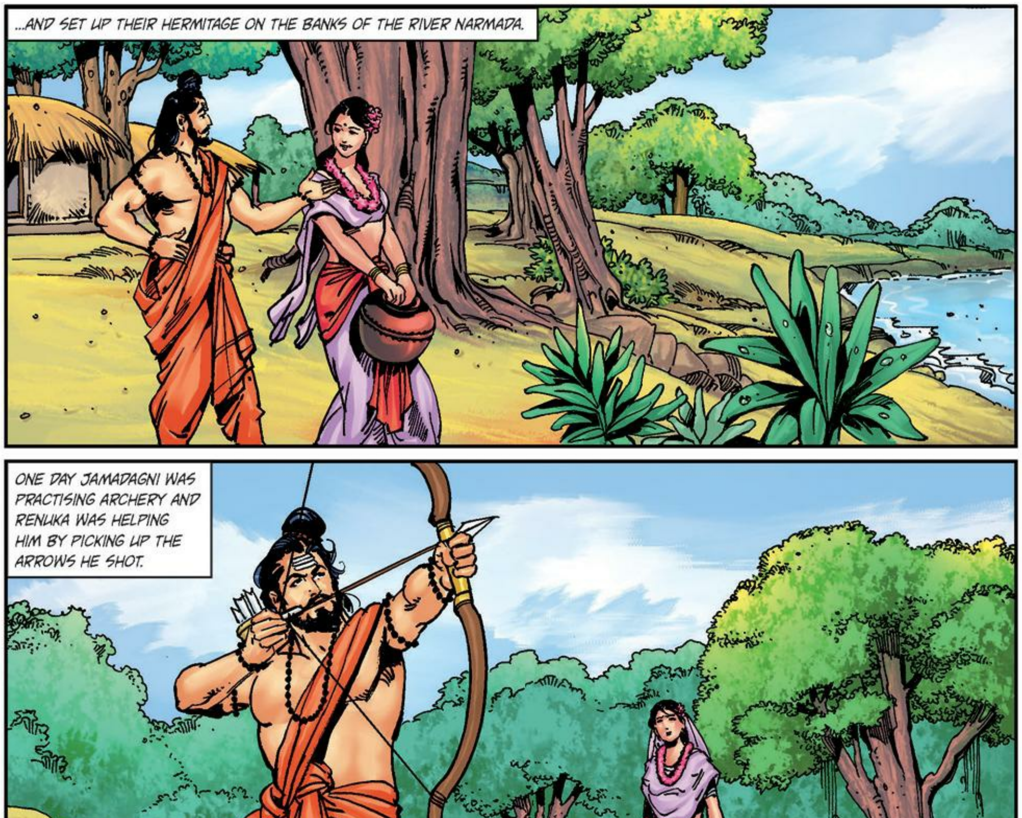

THE BEST I CAN DO IS THEN TO MAKE YOUR GRANDSON A KSHATRIYA. WE WILL HAVE A BRAHMIN FOR A SON.

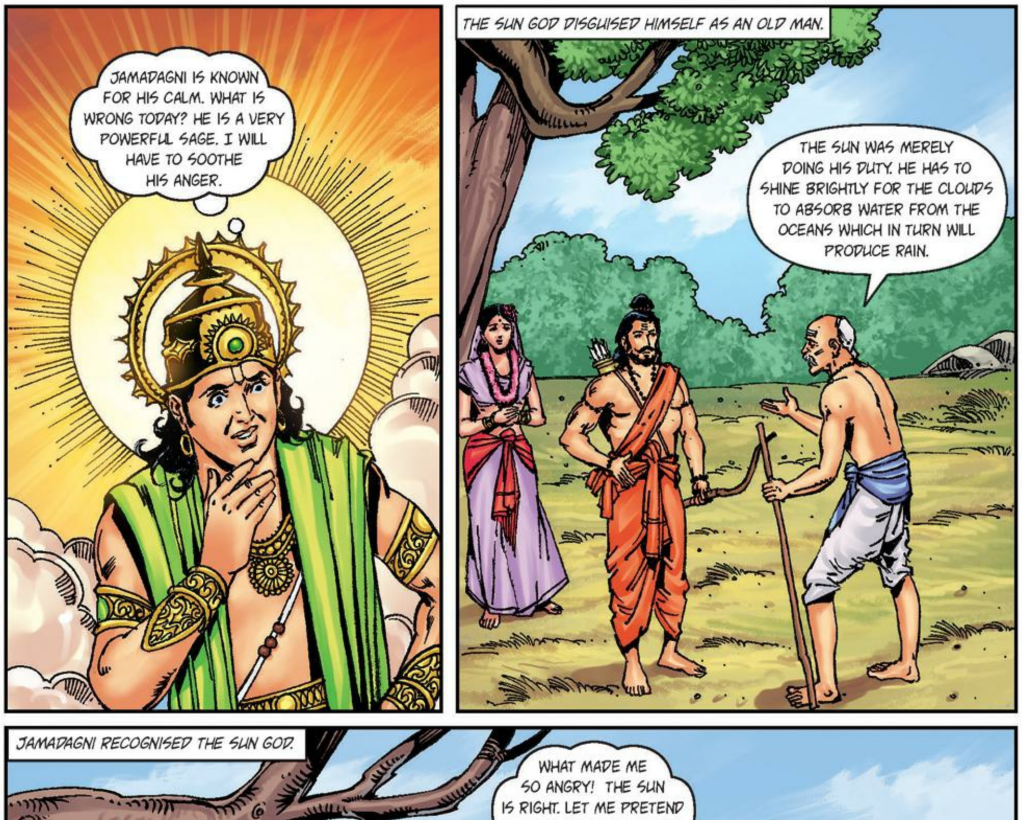

IN TIME A SON WAS BORN TO SATYAVATI. HE WAS CALLED JAMADAGNI.
JAMADAGNI WILL BE ONE OF THE SAPTARSHI IN THE VAIVASVATA MANAVANTARA.
SATYAVATI'S PARENTS HAD A SON WHO LATER BECAME THE GREAT SAGE VISHWAMITRA. HE WAS ALSO MADE A SAPTARSHI BY BRAHMA.

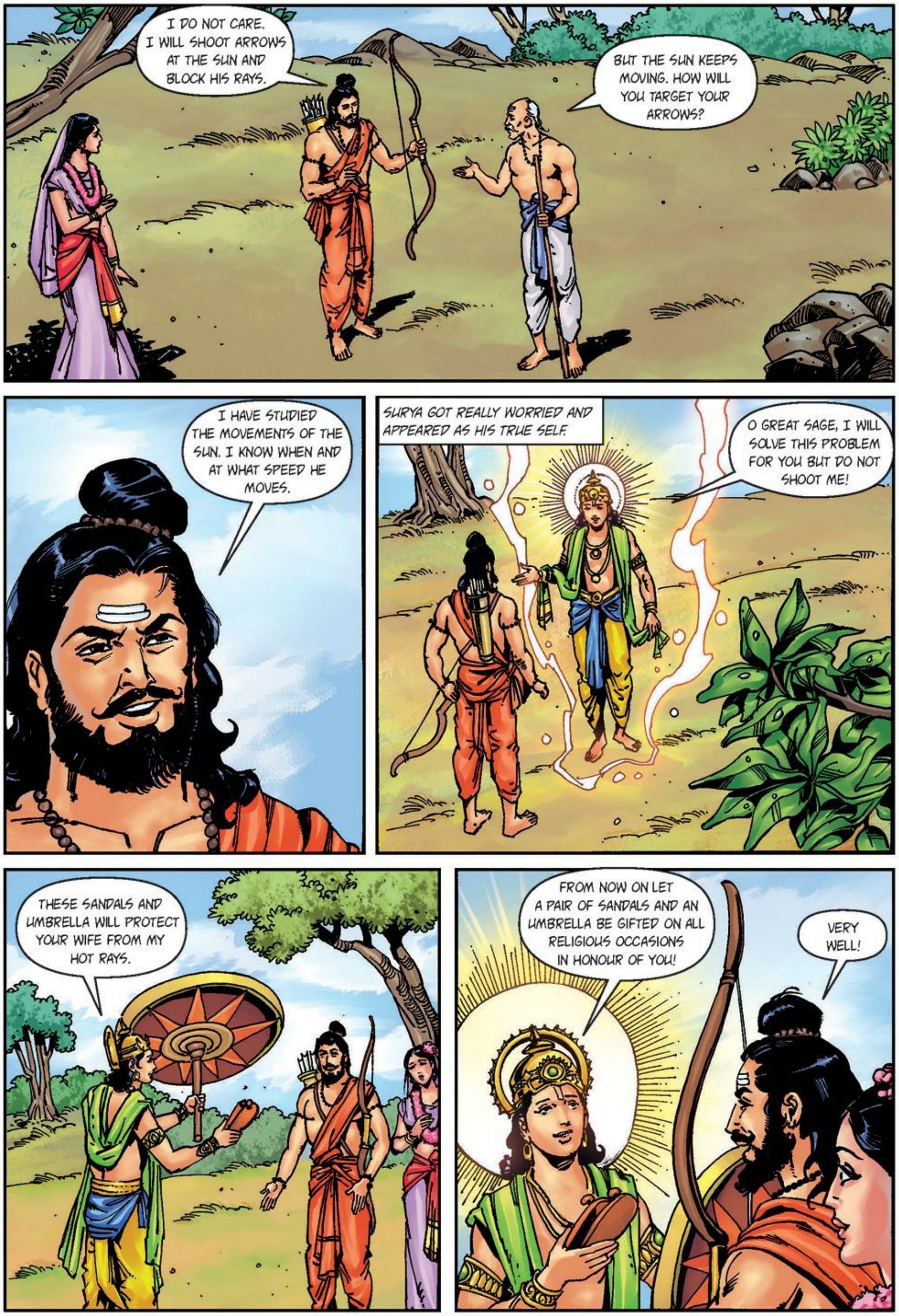

RICHIKA TAUGHT JAMADAGNI NOT ONLY THE VEDAS...

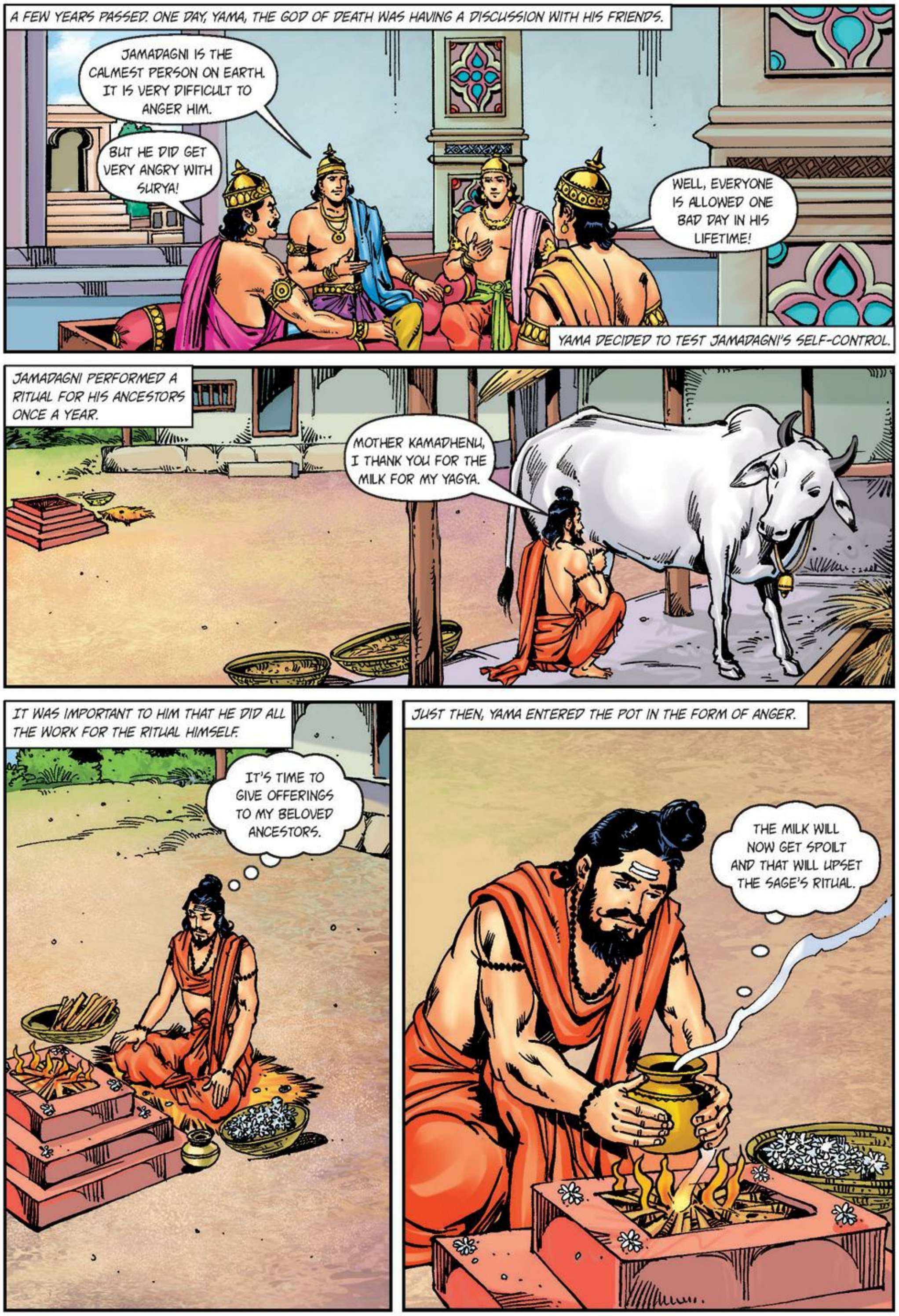

...BUT ALSO TRAINED HIM IN ARCHERY.

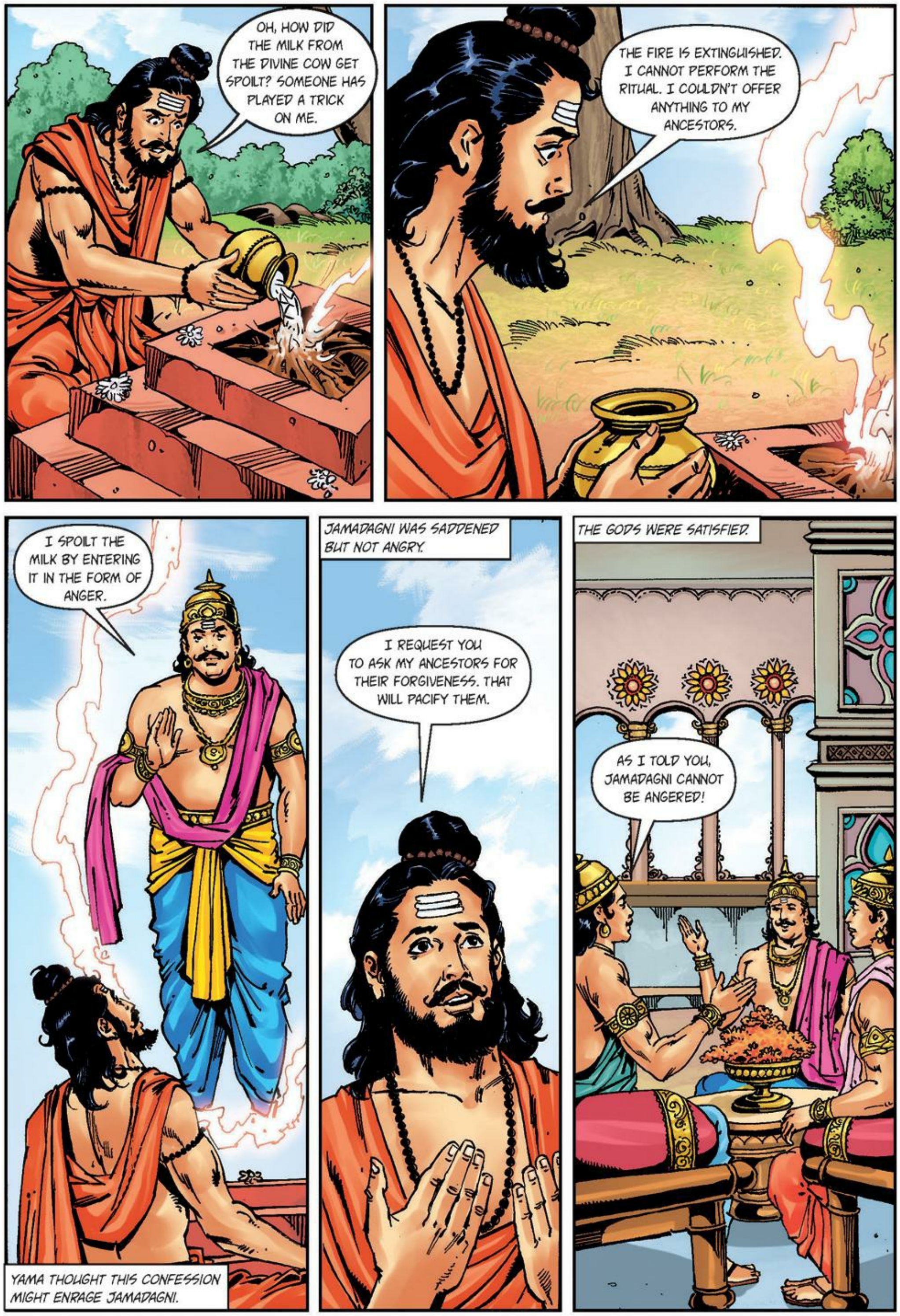

JAMADAGNI WAS A SINCERE STUDENT AND A GREAT DEVOTEE OF THE GODS.
JAMADAGNI IS SUCH AN AUTHORITY ON THE VEDAS.
THE YOUNG SAGE ALSO UNDERTOOK TRAVELS ACROSS THE LAND TO UNDERSTAND ITS NATURE. ON ONE SUCH TRAVEL -
WHO IS THAT WOMAN WHO LOOKS LIKE AN APSARA?
THAT IS RENUKA, OUR PRINCESS.
RENUKA WAS KING PRASENAJIT'S DAUGHTER.
I HAVE COME TO REQUEST YOU FOR YOUR DAUGHTER'S HAND.
IT IS RENUKA'S GOOD FORTUNE TO HAVE SUCH A SCHOLARLY MAN AS HER HUSBAND!
JAMADAGNI MARRIED RENUKA...

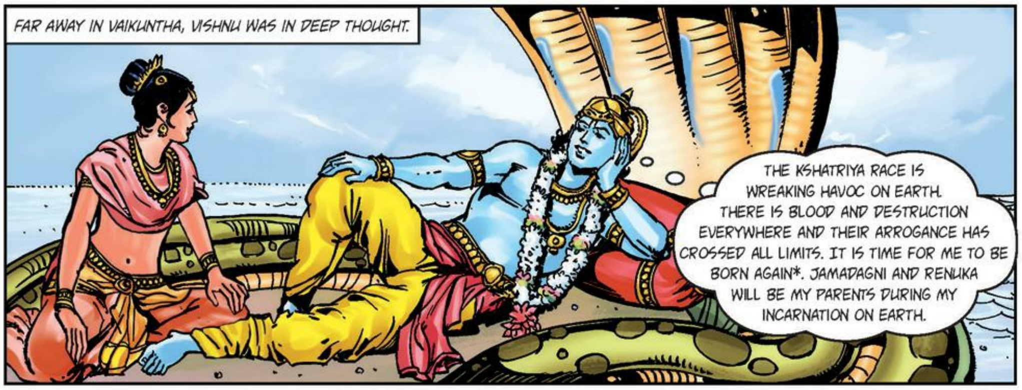

...AND SET UP THEIR HERMITAGE ON THE BANKS OF THE RIVER NARMADA.
ONE DAY JAMADAGNI WAS PRACTISING ARCHERY AND RENUKA WAS HELPING HIM BY PICKING UP THE ARROWS HE SHOT.
I AM EXHAUSTED AS THE SUN HAS GROWN VERY FIERCE.
MY FEET ARE SCORCHED AND MY HEAD IS BURNING WITH THIS HEAT.
JAMADAGNI WAS FURIOUS WITH THE SUN FOR TROUBLING HIS WIFE.
I WILL DESTROY THE BLAZING RAYS OF THE SUN.

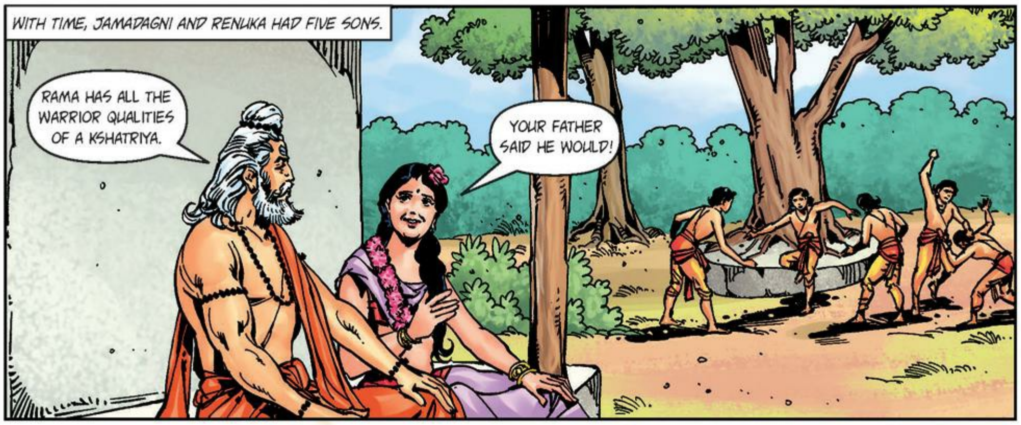

JAMADAGNI IS KNOWN FOR HIS CALM. WHAT IS WRONG TODAY? HE IS A VERY POWERFUL SAGE. I WILL HAVE TO SOOTHE HIS ANGER.
THE SUN GOD DISGUISED HIMSELF AS AN OLD MAN.
THE SUN WAS MERELY DOING HIS DUTY. HE HAS TO SHINE BRIGHTLY FOR THE CLOUDS TO ABSORB WATER FROM THE OCEANS WHICH IN TURN WILL PRODUCE RAIN.
JAMADAGNI RECOGNISED THE SUN GOD.
WHAT MADE ME SO ANGRY! THE SUN IS RIGHT. LET ME PRETEND TO BE ANGRY SINCE HE IS STILL IN DISGUISE!

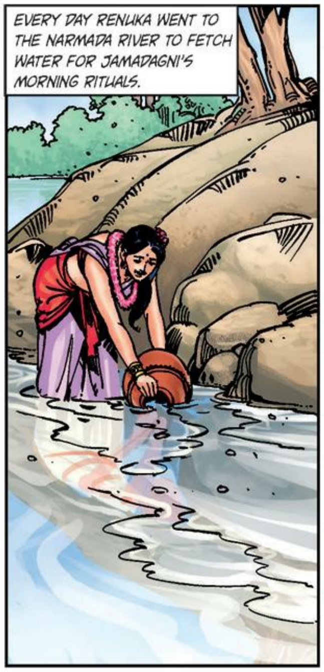

I DO NOT CARE. I WILL SHOOT ARROWS AT THE SUN AND BLOCK HIS RAYS.
BUT THE SUN KEEPS MOVING. HOW WILL YOU TARGET YOUR ARROWS?
I HAVE STUDIED THE MOVEMENTS OF THE SUN. I KNOW WHEN AND AT WHAT SPEED HE MOVES.
SURYA GOT REALLY WORRIED AND APPEARED AS HIS TRUE SELF.
O GREAT SAGE, I WILL SOLVE THIS PROBLEM FOR YOU BUT DO NOT SHOOT ME!
THESE SANDALS AND UMBRELLA WILL PROTECT YOUR WIFE FROM MY HOT RAYS.
FROM NOW ON LET A PAIR OF SANDALS AND AN UMBRELLA BE GIFTED ON ALL RELIGIOUS OCCASIONS IN HONOUR OF YOU!
VERY WELL!

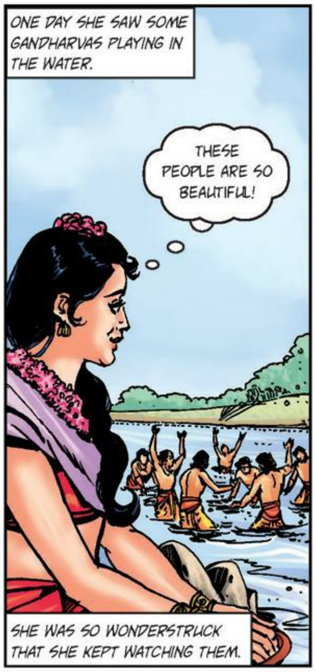

A FEW YEARS PASSED. ONE DAY, YAMA, THE GOD OF DEATH WAS HAVING A DISCUSSION WITH HIS FRIENDS.
JAMADAGNI IS THE CALMEST PERSON ON EARTH. IT IS VERY DIFFICULT TO ANGER HIM.
BUT HE DID GET VERY ANGRY WITH SURYA!
WELL, EVERYONE IS ALLOWED ONE BAD DAY IN HIS LIFETIME!
YAMA DECIDED TO TEST JAMADAGNI'S SELF-CONTROL.
JAMADAGNI PERFORMED A RITUAL FOR HIS ANCESTORS ONCE A YEAR.
MOTHER KAMADHENU, I THANK YOU FOR THE MILK FOR MY YAGYA.
IT WAS IMPORTANT TO HIM THAT HE DID ALL THE WORK FOR THE RITUAL HIMSELF.
IT'S TIME TO GIVE OFFERINGS TO MY BELOVED ANCESTORS.
JUST THEN, YAMA ENTERED THE POT IN THE FORM OF ANGER.
THE MILK WILL NOW GET SPOILT AND THAT WILL UPSET THE SAGE'S RITUAL.

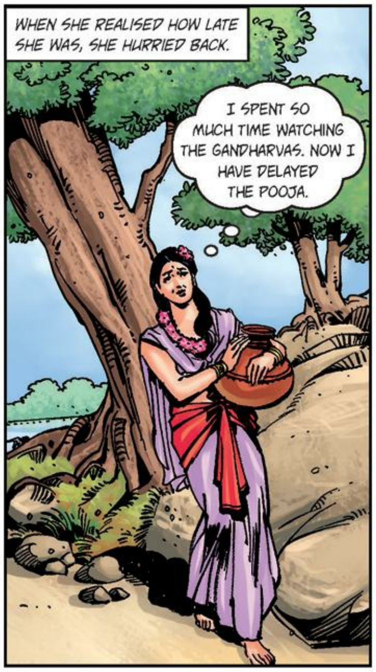

OH, HOW DID THE MILK FROM THE DIVINE COW GET SPOILT? SOMEONE HAS PLAYED A TRICK ON ME.
THE FIRE IS EXTINGUISHED. I CANNOT PERFORM THE RITUAL. I COULDN'T OFFER ANYTHING TO MY ANCESTORS.
I SPOILT THE MILK BY ENTERING IT IN THE FORM OF ANGER.
YAMA THOUGHT THIS CONFESSION MIGHT ENRAGE JAMADAGNI.
JAMADAGNI WAS SADDENED BUT NOT ANGRY.
I REQUEST YOU TO ASK MY ANCESTORS FOR THEIR FORGIVENESS. THAT WILL PACIFY THEM.
THE GODS WERE SATISFIED.
AS I TOLD YOU, JAMADAGNI CANNOT BE ANGERED!


FAR AWAY IN VAIKUNTHA, VISHNU WAS IN DEEP THOUGHT.
THE KSHATRIYA RACE IS WREAKING HAVOC ON EARTH. THERE IS BLOOD AND DESTRUCTION EVERYWHERE AND THEIR ARROGANCE HAS CROSSED ALL LIMITS. IT IS TIME FOR ME TO BE BORN AGAIN*. JAMADAGNI AND RENUKA WILL BE MY PARENTS DURING MY INCARNATION ON EARTH.

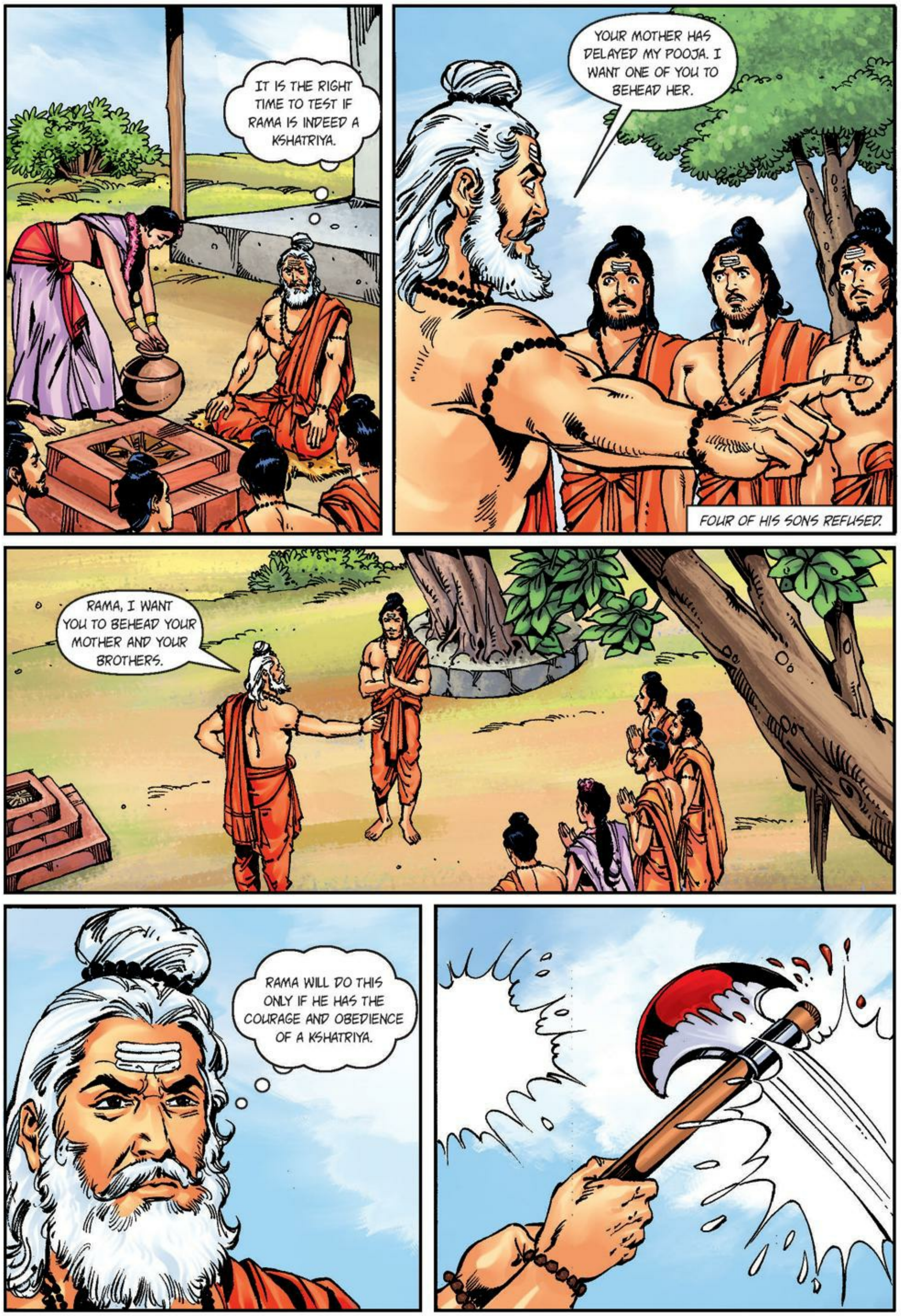

WITH TIME, JAMADAGNI AND RENUKA HAD FIVE SONS.
RAMA HAS ALL THE WARRIOR QUALITIES OF A KSHATRIYA.
YOUR FATHER SAID HE WOULD!

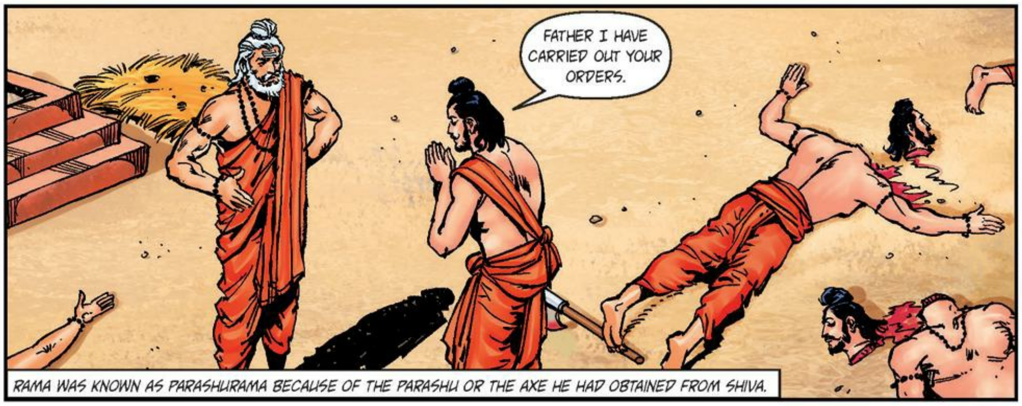

EVERY DAY RENUKA WENT TO THE NARMADA RIVER TO FETCH WATER FOR JAMADAGNI'S MORNING RITUALS.


ONE DAY SHE SAW SOME GANDHARVAS PLAYING IN THE WATER.
THESE PEOPLE ARE SO BEAUTIFUL!
SHE WAS SO WONDERSTRUCK THAT SHE KEPT WATCHING THEM.

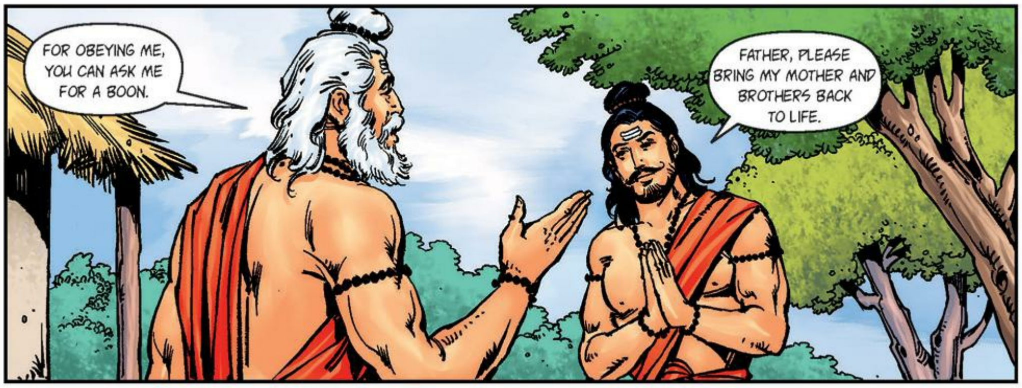

WHEN SHE REALISED HOW LATE SHE WAS, SHE HURRIED BACK.
I SPENT SO MUCH TIME WATCHING THE GANDHARVAS. NOW I HAVE DELAYED THE POOJA.

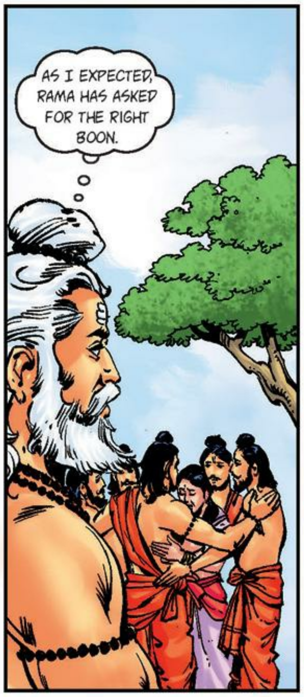
*VISHNU GETS BORN AS A HUMAN ON EARTH EVERY MANAVANTARA TO DESTROY EVIL AND ESTABLISH THE GOOD.


IT IS THE RIGHT TIME TO TEST IF RAMA IS INDEED A KSHATRIYA.
YOUR MOTHER HAS DELAYED MY POOJA. I WANT ONE OF YOU TO BEHEAD HER.
FOUR OF HIS SONS REFUSED.
RAMA, I WANT YOU TO BEHEAD YOUR MOTHER AND YOUR BROTHERS.
RAMA WILL DO THIS ONLY IF HE HAS THE COURAGE AND OBEDIENCE OF A KSHATRIYA.

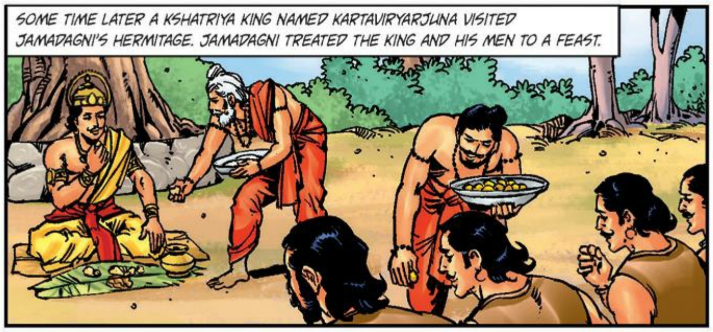

FATHER I HAVE CARRIED OUT YOUR ORDERS.

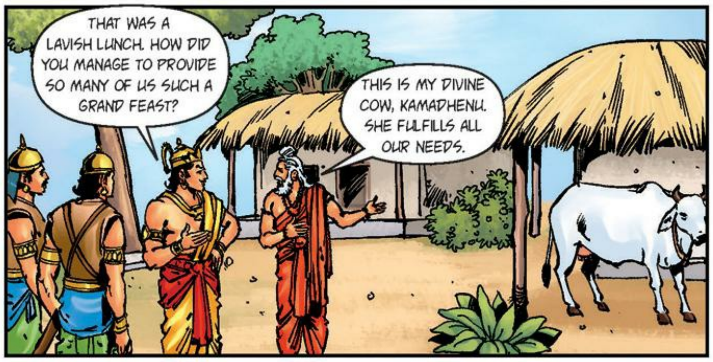
RAMA WAS KNOWN AS PARASHURAMA BECAUSE OF THE PARASHU OR THE AXE HE HAD OBTAINED FROM SHIVA.

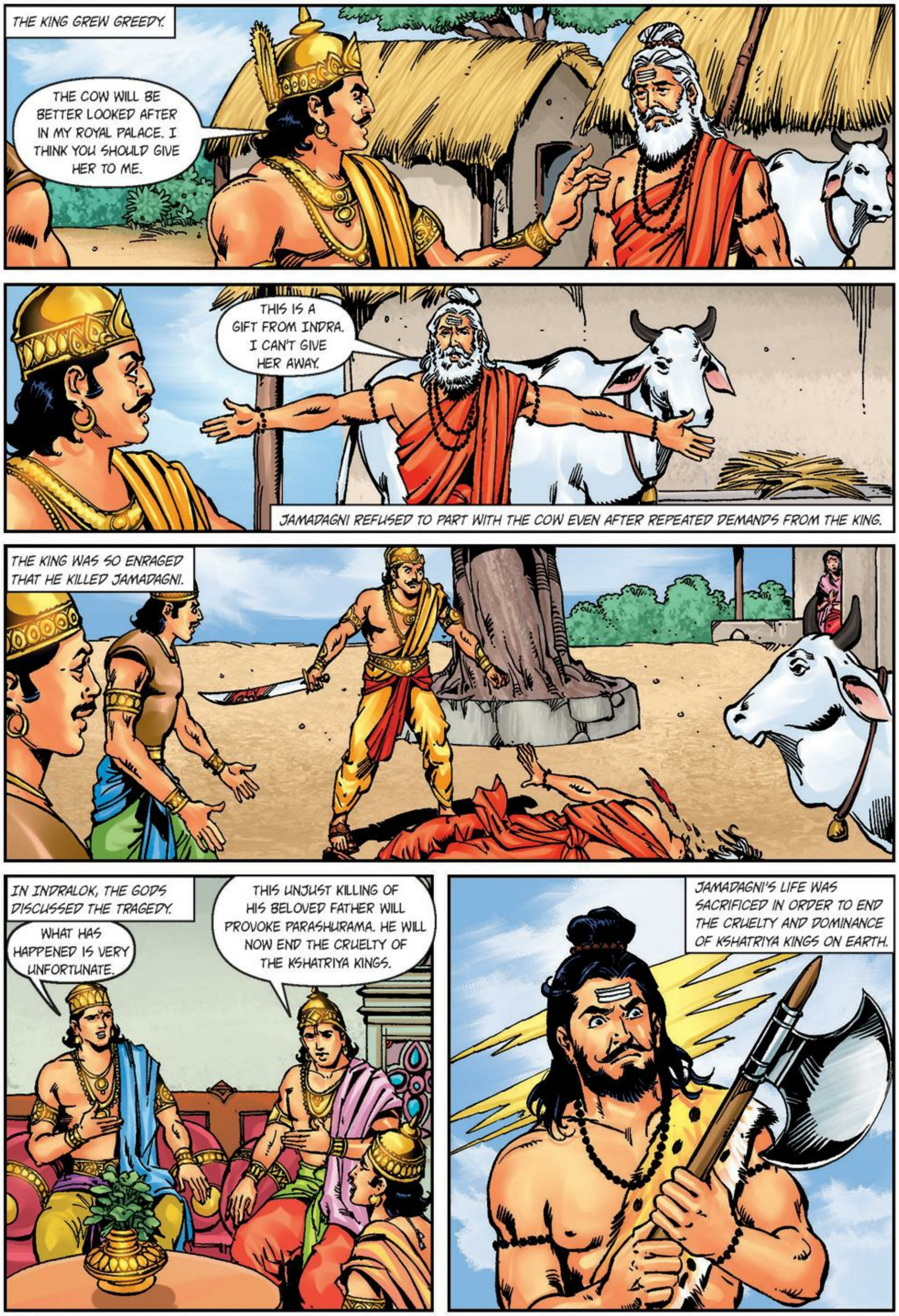

FOR OBEYING ME, YOU CAN ASK ME FOR A BOON.
FATHER, PLEASE BRING MY MOTHER AND BROTHERS BACK TO LIFE.


AS I EXPECTED, RAMA HAS ASKED FOR THE RIGHT BOON.

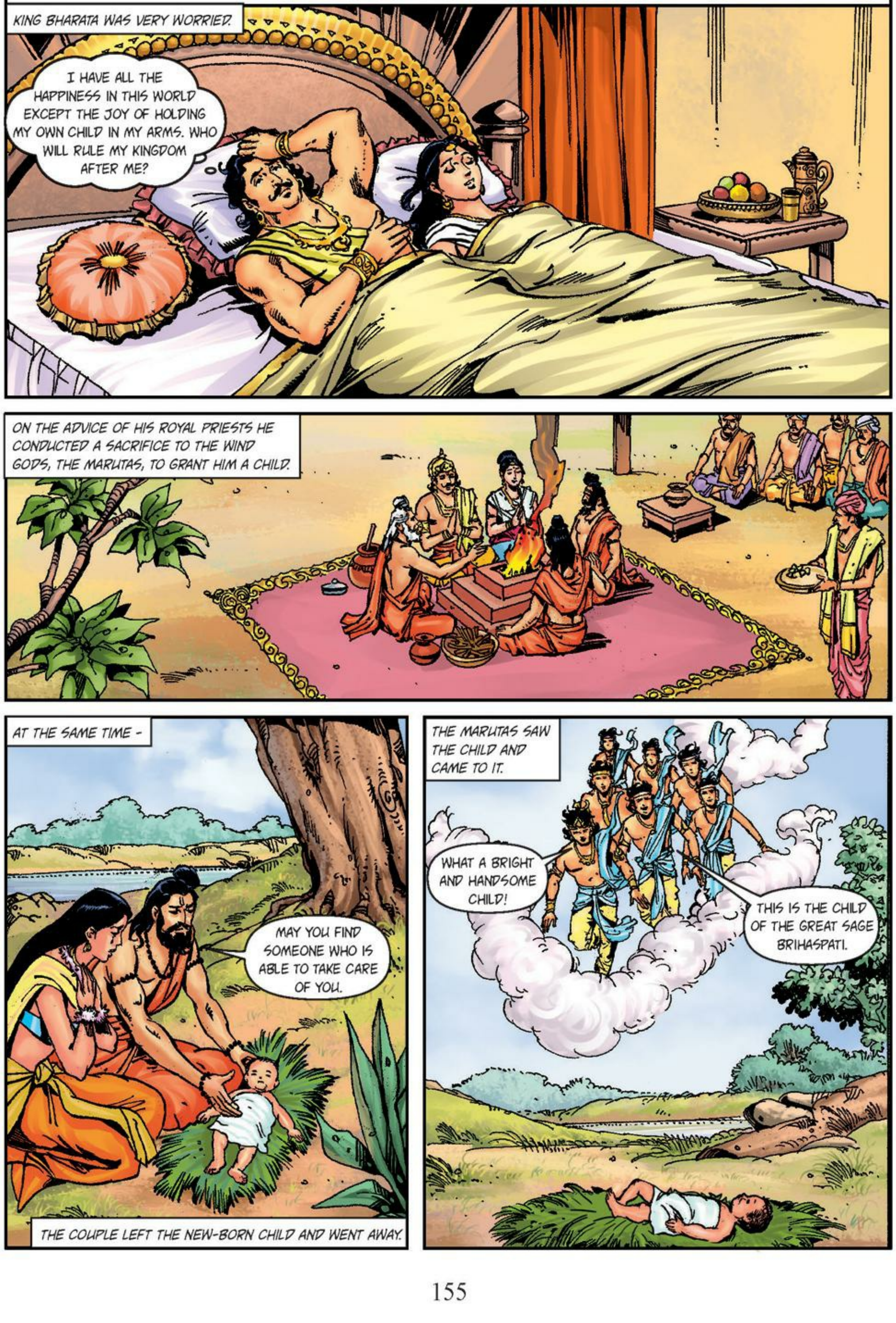
SOME TIME LATER A KSHATRIYA KING NAMED KARTAVIRYARJUNA VISITED JAMADAGNI'S HERMITAGE. JAMADAGNI TREATED THE KING AND HIS MEN TO A FEAST.

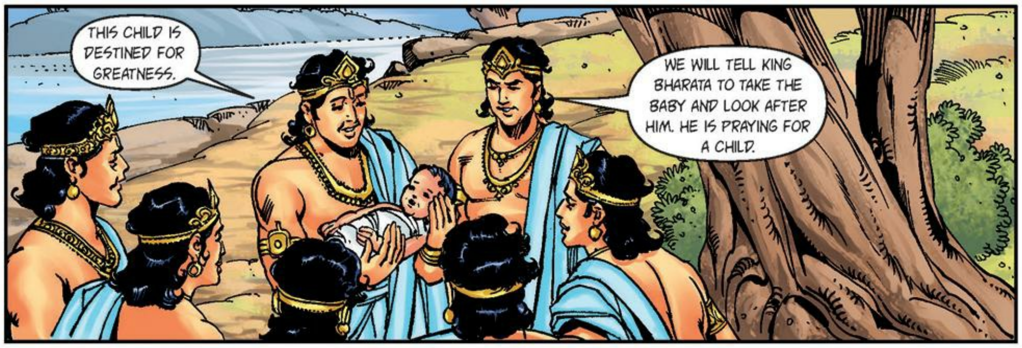


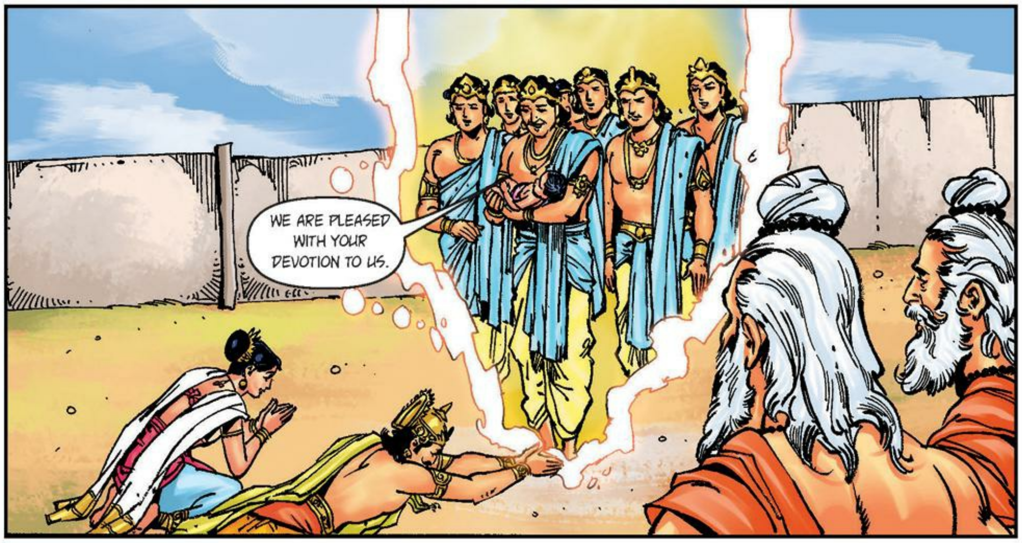

THAT WAS A LAVISH LUNCH. HOW DID YOU MANAGE TO PROVIDE SO MANY OF US SUCH A GRAND FEAST?
THIS IS MY DIVINE COW, KAMADHENU. SHE FULFILLS ALL OUR NEEDS.

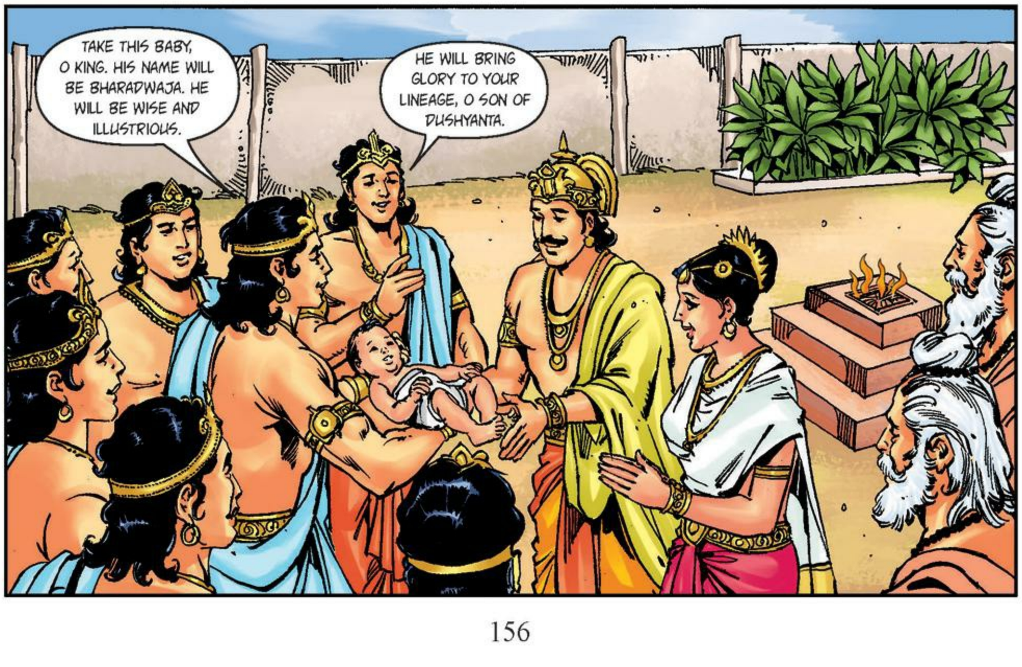

THE KING GREW GREEDY.
THE COW WILL BE BETTER LOOKED AFTER IN MY ROYAL PALACE. I THINK YOU SHOULD GIVE HER TO ME.
THIS IS A GIFT FROM INDRA. I CAN'T GIVE HER AWAY.
JAMADAGNI REFUSED TO PART WITH THE COW EVEN AFTER REPEATED DEMANDS FROM THE KING.
THE KING WAS SO ENRAGED THAT HE KILLED JAMADAGNI.
IN INDRALOK, THE GODS DISCUSSED THE TRAGEDY.
WHAT HAS HAPPENED IS VERY UNFORTUNATE.
THIS UNJUST KILLING OF HIS BELOVED FATHER WILL PROVOKE PARASHURAMA. HE WILL NOW END THE CRUELTY OF THE KSHATRIYA KINGS.
JAMADAGNI'S LIFE WAS SACRIFICED IN ORDER TO END THE CRUELTY AND DOMINANCE OF KSHATRIYA KINGS ON EARTH.

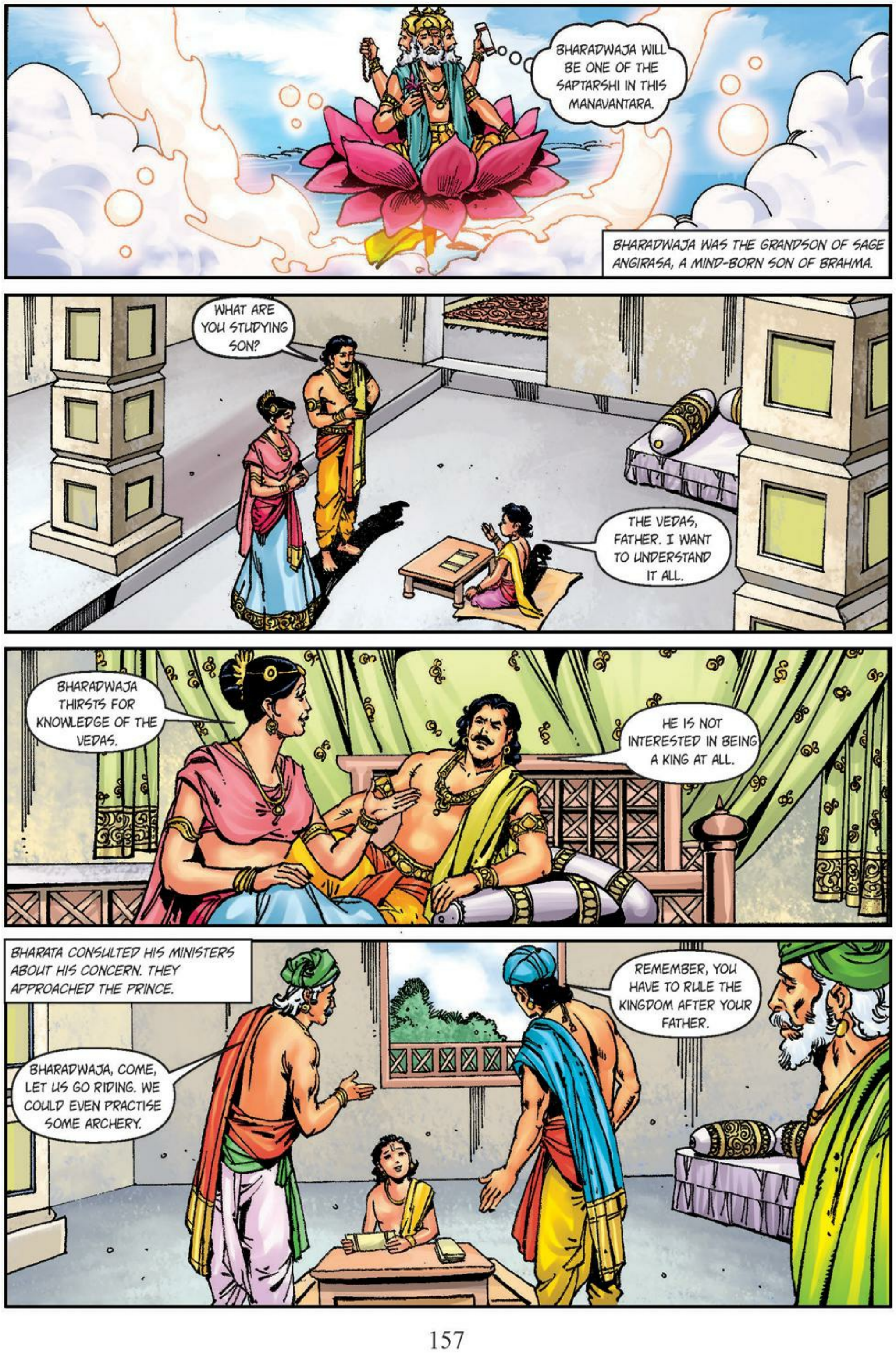
BHARADWAJA

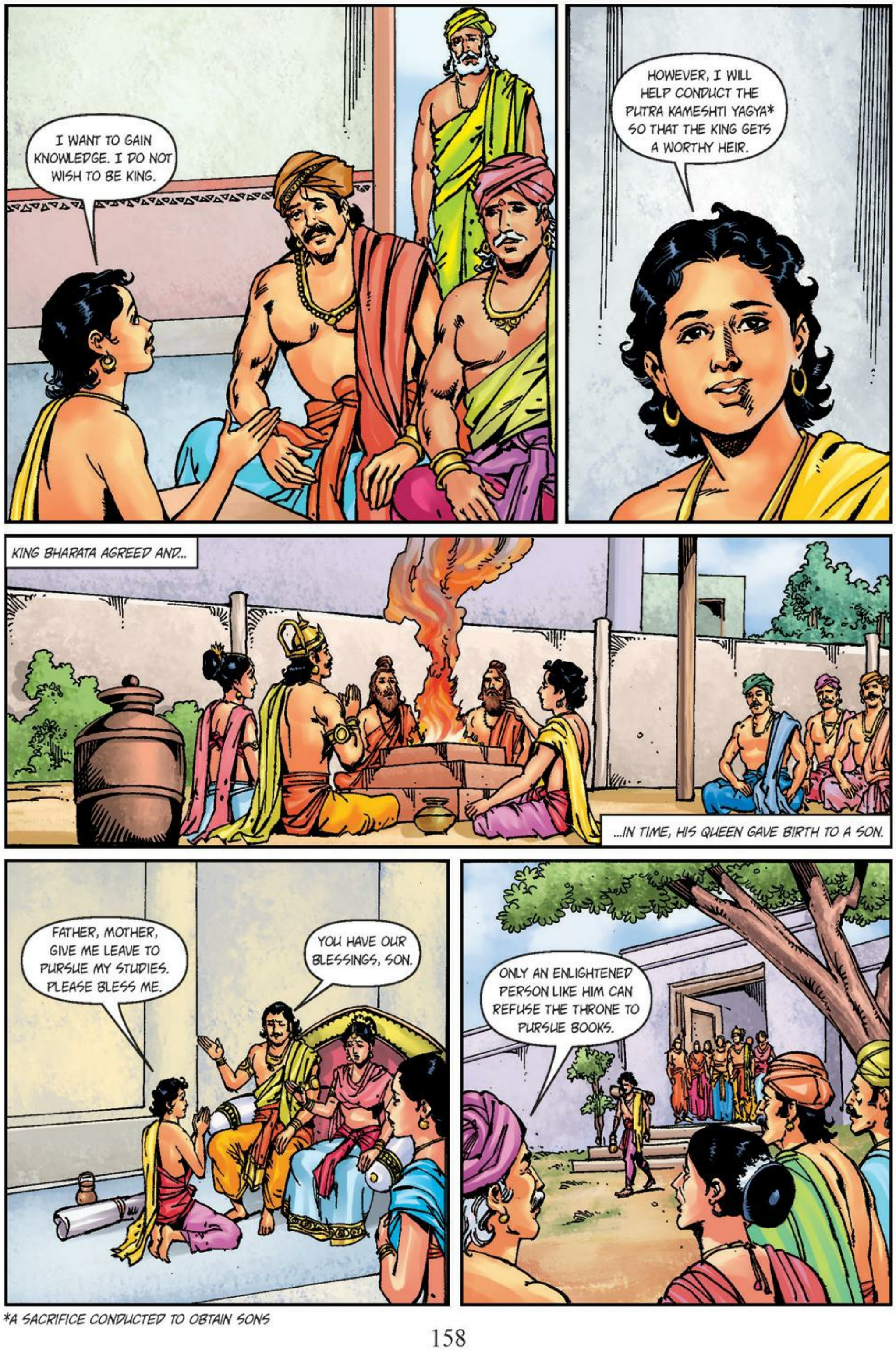

KING BHARATA WAS VERY WORRIED.
I HAVE ALL THE HAPPINESS IN THIS WORLD EXCEPT THE JOY OF HOLDING MY OWN CHILD IN MY ARMS. WHO WILL RULE MY KINGDOM AFTER ME?
ON THE ADVICE OF HIS ROYAL PRIESTS HE CONDUCTED A SACRIFICE TO THE WIND GODS, THE MARUTAS, TO GRANT HIM A CHILD.
AT THE SAME TIME -
MAY YOU FIND SOMEONE WHO IS ABLE TO TAKE CARE OF YOU.
THE COUPLE LEFT THE NEW-BORN CHILD AND WENT AWAY.
THE MARUTAS SAW THE CHILD AND CAME TO IT.
WHAT A BRIGHT AND HANDSOME CHILD!
THIS IS THE CHILD OF THE GREAT SAGE BRIHASPATI.


THIS CHILD IS DESTINED FOR GREATNESS.
WE WILL TELL KING BHARATA TO TAKE THE BABY AND LOOK AFTER HIM. HE IS PRAYING FOR A CHILD.

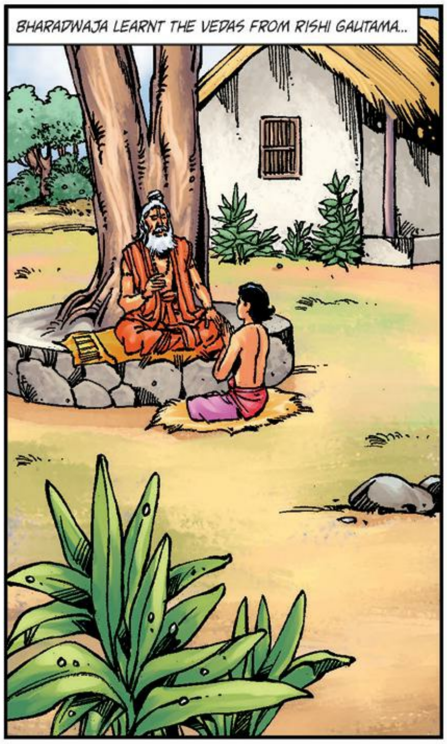

WE ARE PLEASED WITH YOUR DEVOTION TO US.

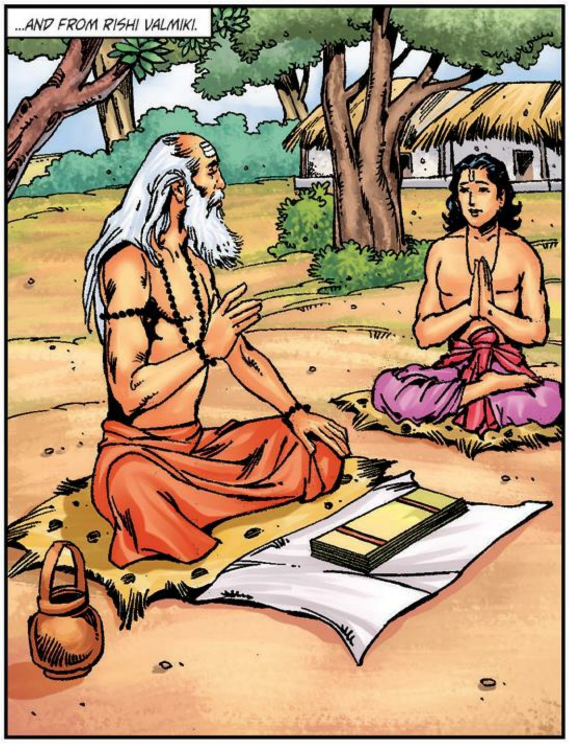

TAKE THIS BABY, O KING. HIS NAME WILL BE BHARADWAJA. HE WILL BE WISE AND ILLUSTRIOUS.
HE WILL BRING GLORY TO YOUR LINEAGE, O SON OF DUSHYANTA.

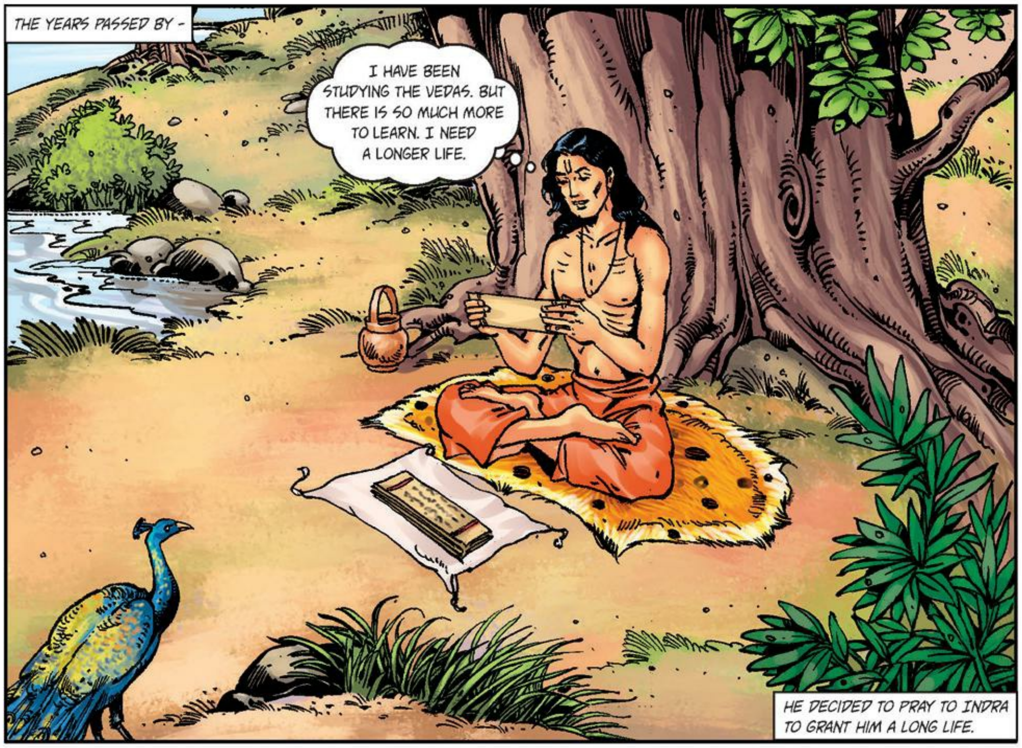

BHARADWAJA WILL BE ONE OF THE SAPTARSHI IN THIS MANAVANTARA.
BHARADWAJA WAS THE GRANDSON OF SAGE ANGIRASA, A MIND-BORN SON OF BRAHMA.
WHAT ARE YOU STUDYING SON?
THE VEDAS, FATHER. I WANT TO UNDERSTAND IT ALL.
BHARADWAJA THIRSTS FOR KNOWLEDGE OF THE VEDAS.
HE IS NOT INTERESTED IN BEING A KING AT ALL.
BHARATA CONSULTED HIS MINISTERS ABOUT HIS CONCERN. THEY APPROACHED THE PRINCE.
REMEMBER, YOU HAVE TO RULE THE KINGDOM AFTER YOUR FATHER.
BHARADWAJA, COME, LET US GO RIDING. WE COULD EVEN PRACTISE SOME ARCHERY.

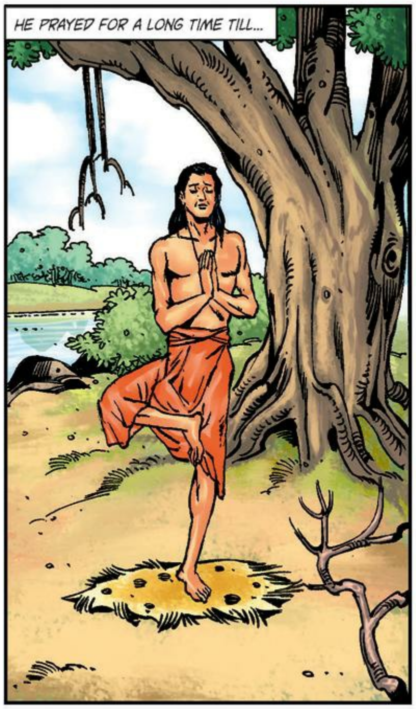

I WANT TO GAIN KNOWLEDGE. I DO NOT WISH TO BE KING.
HOWEVER, I WILL HELP CONDUCT THE PUTRA KAMESHTI YAGYA* SO THAT THE KING GETS A WORTHY HEIR.
KING BHARATA AGREED AND...
...IN TIME, HIS QUEEN GAVE BIRTH TO A SON.
FATHER, MOTHER, GIVE ME LEAVE TO PURSUE MY STUDIES. PLEASE BLESS ME.
YOU HAVE OUR BLESSINGS, SON.
ONLY AN ENLIGHTENED PERSON LIKE HIM CAN REFUSE THE THRONE TO PURSUE BOOKS.

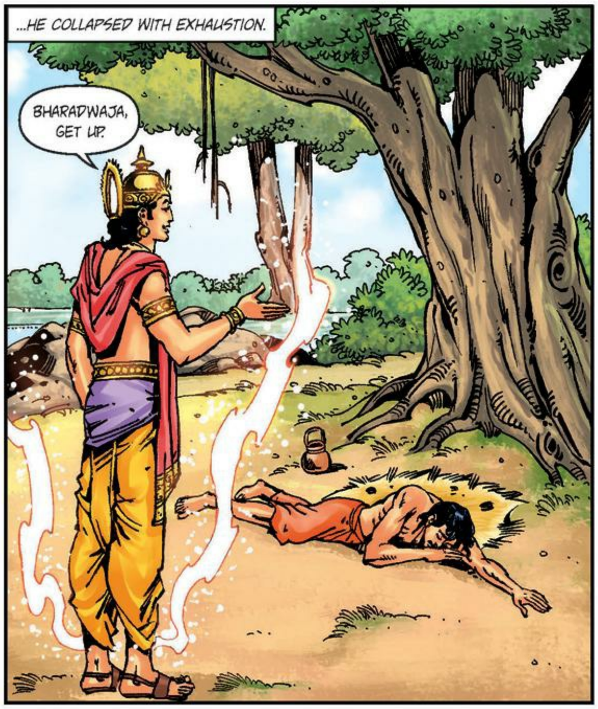
*A SACRIFICE CONDUCTED TO OBTAIN SONS

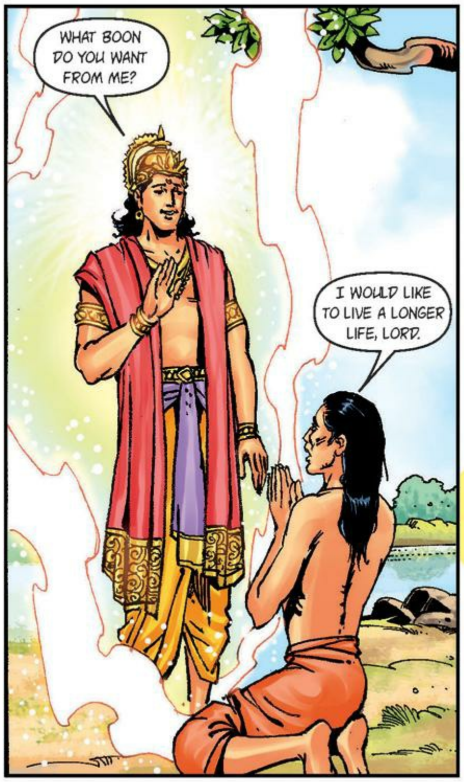

BHARADWAJA LEARNT THE VEDAS FROM RISHI GAUTAMA...

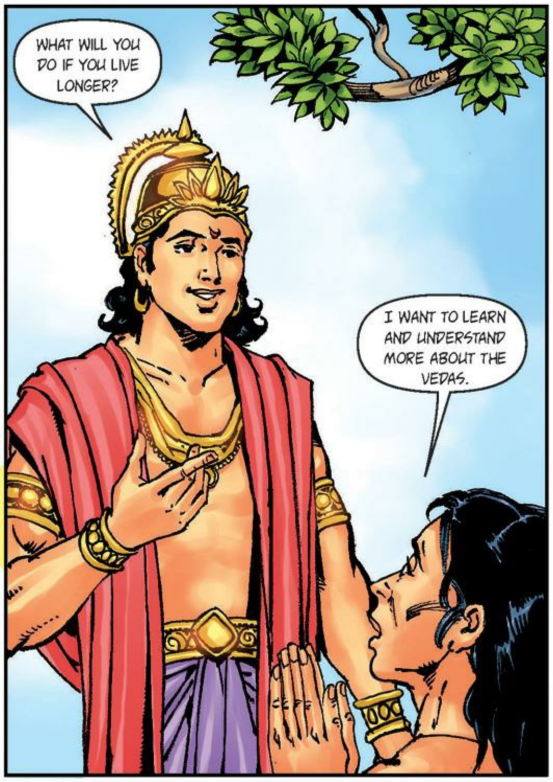

...AND FROM RISHI VALMIKI.

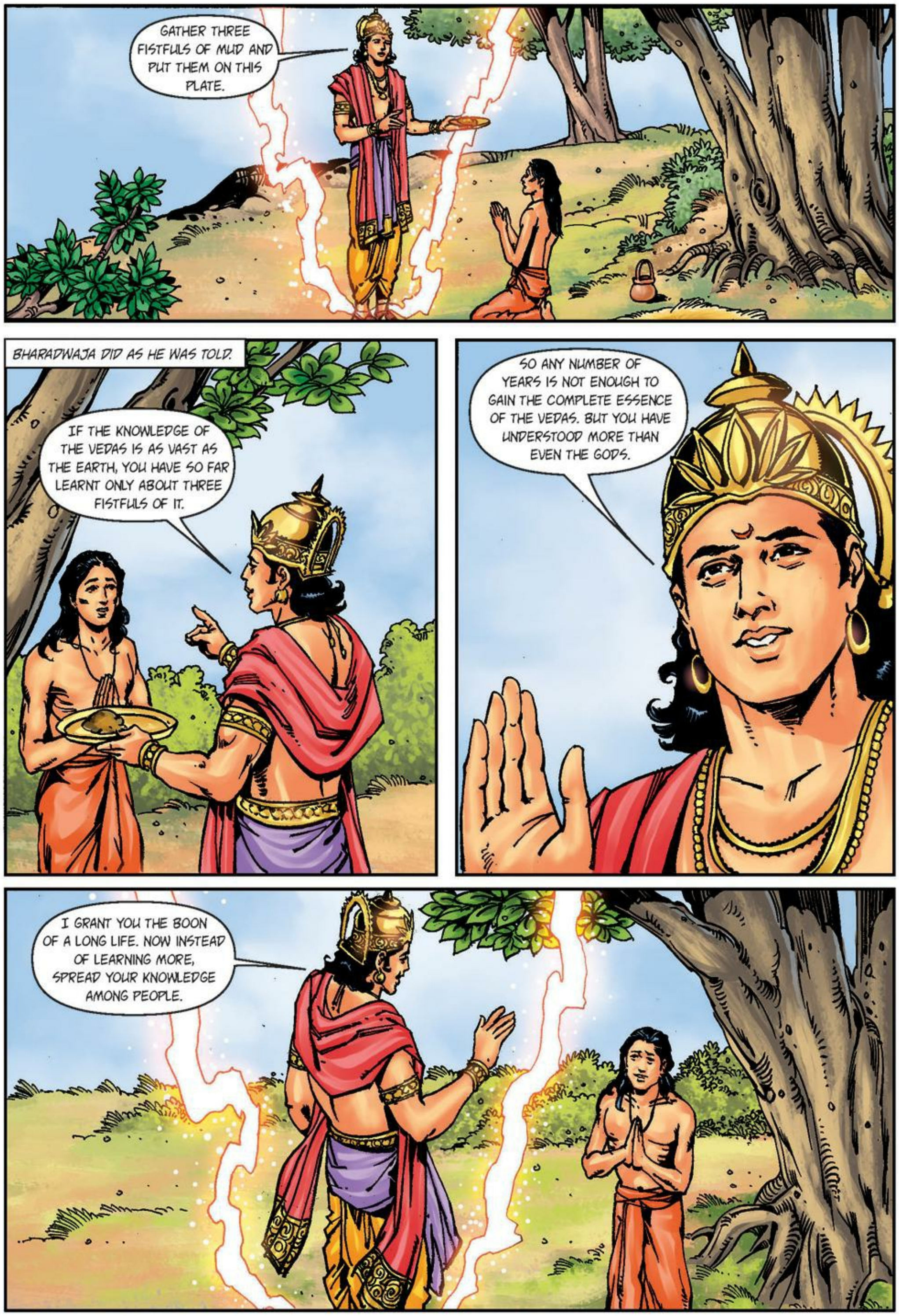

THE YEARS PASSED BY -
I HAVE BEEN STUDYING THE VEDAS. BUT THERE IS SO MUCH MORE TO LEARN. I NEED A LONGER LIFE.
HE DECIDED TO PRAY TO INDRA TO GRANT HIM A LONG LIFE.

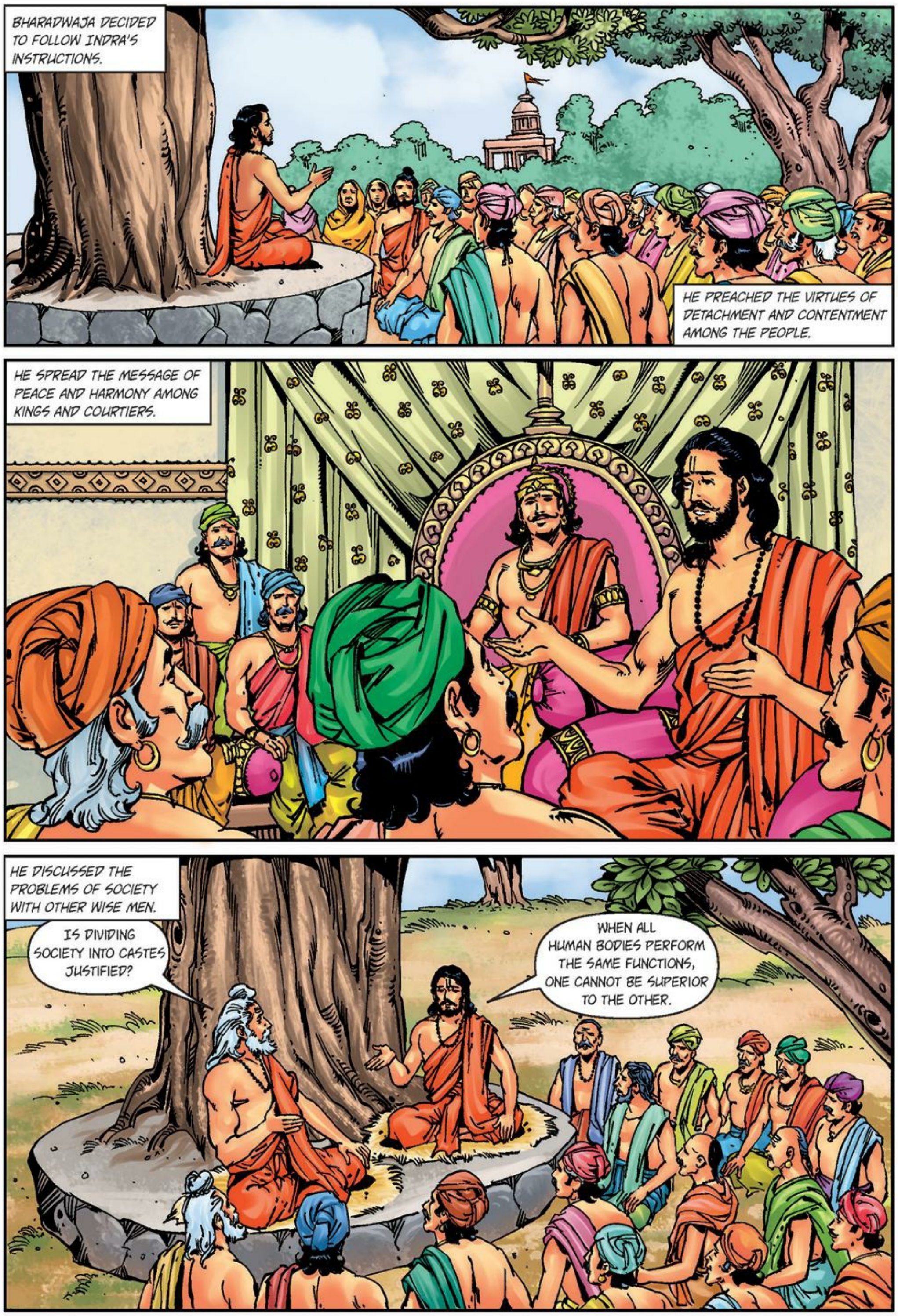

HE PRAYED FOR A LONG TIME TILL...

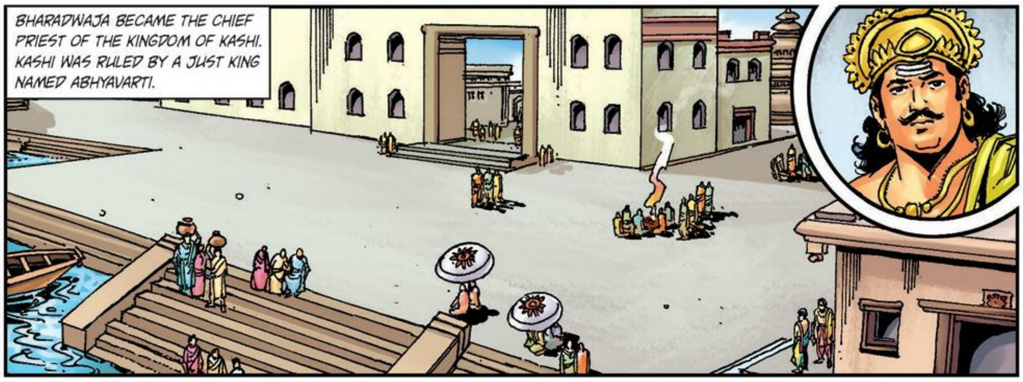

...HE COLLAPSED WITH EXHAUSTION.
BHARADWAJA, GET UP.

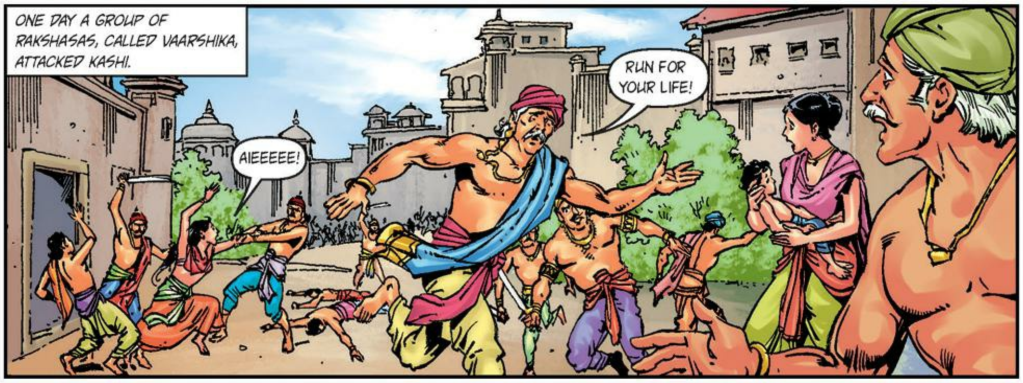

WHAT BOON DO YOU WANT FROM ME?
I WOULD LIKE TO LIVE A LONGER LIFE, LORD.

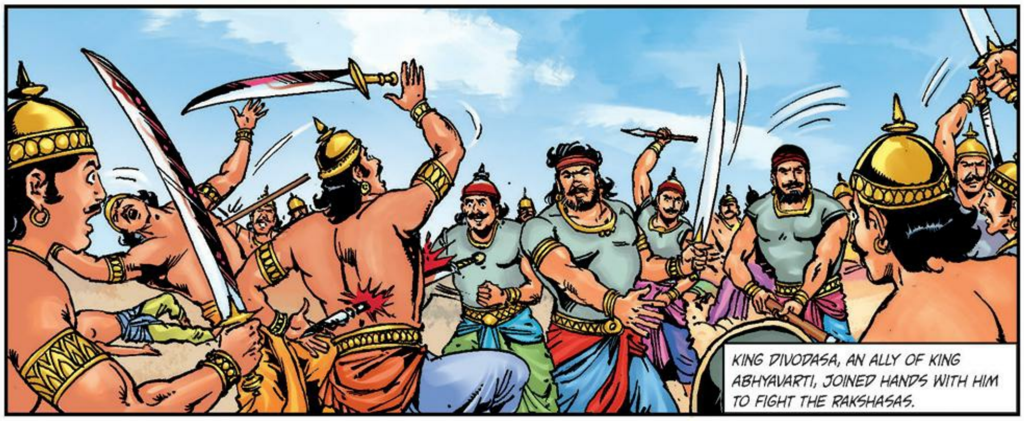

WHAT WILL YOU DO IF YOU LIVE LONGER?
I WANT TO LEARN AND UNDERSTAND MORE ABOUT THE VEDAS.

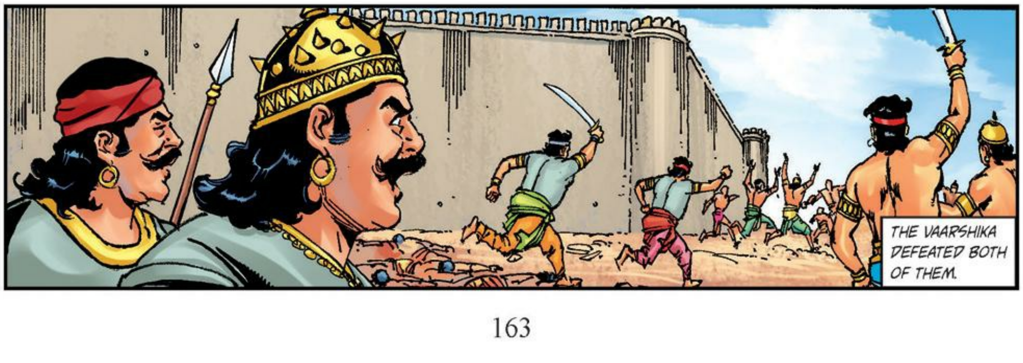

GATHER THREE FISTFULS OF MUD AND PUT THEM ON THIS PLATE.
BHARADWAJA DID AS HE WAS TOLD.
IF THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE VEDAS IS AS VAST AS THE EARTH, YOU HAVE SO FAR LEARNT ONLY ABOUT THREE FISTFULS OF IT.
SO ANY NUMBER OF YEARS IS NOT ENOUGH TO GAIN THE COMPLETE ESSENCE OF THE VEDAS. BUT YOU HAVE UNDERSTOOD MORE THAN EVEN THE GODS.
I GRANT YOU THE BOON OF A LONG LIFE. NOW INSTEAD OF LEARNING MORE, SPREAD YOUR KNOWLEDGE AMONG PEOPLE.

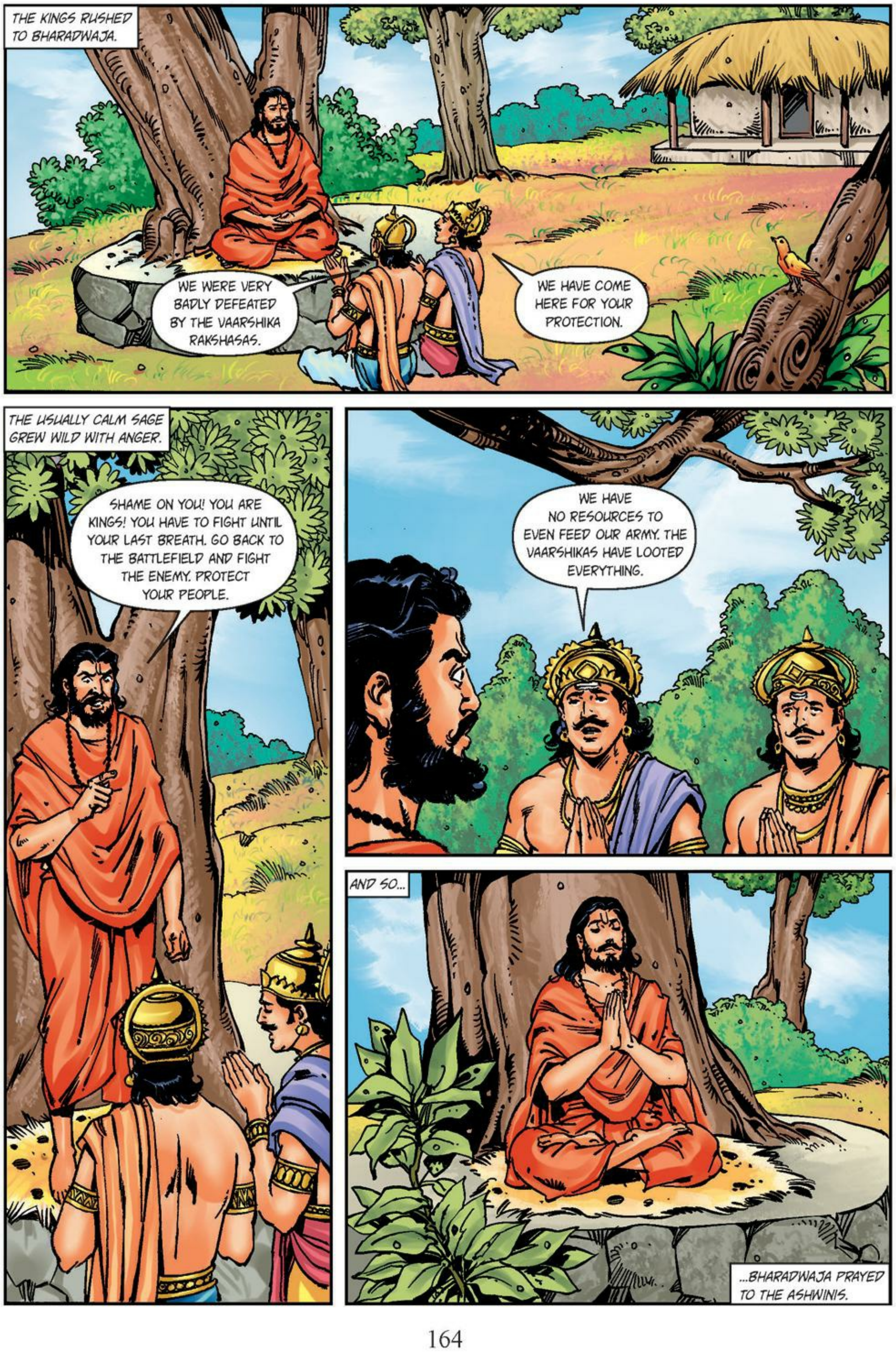

BHARADWAJA DECIDED TO FOLLOW INDRA'S INSTRUCTIONS.
HE PREACHED THE VIRTUES OF DETACHMENT AND CONTENTMENT AMONG THE PEOPLE.
HE SPREAD THE MESSAGE OF PEACE AND HARMONY AMONG KINGS AND COURTIERS.
HE DISCUSSED THE PROBLEMS OF SOCIETY WITH OTHER WISE MEN.
IS DIVIDING SOCIETY INTO CASTES JUSTIFIED?
WHEN ALL HUMAN BODIES PERFORM THE SAME FUNCTIONS, ONE CANNOT BE SUPERIOR TO THE OTHER.

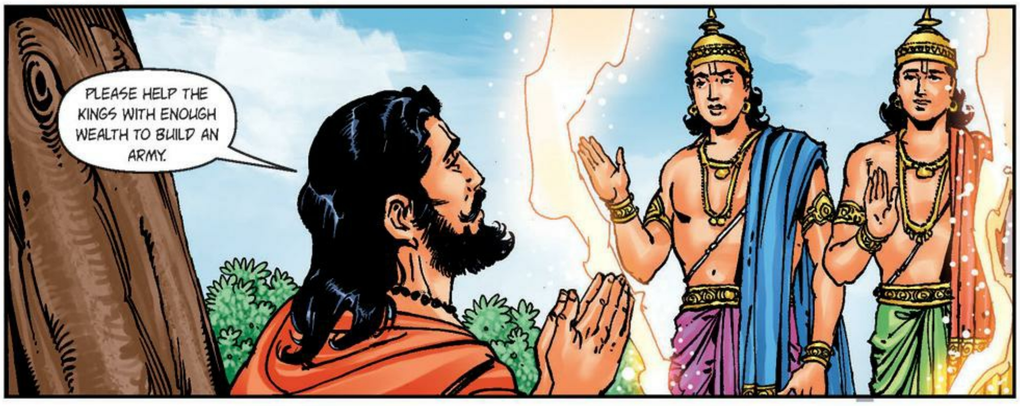

BHARADWAJA BECAME THE CHIEF PRIEST OF THE KINGDOM OF KASHI. KASHI WAS RULED BY A JUST KING NAMED ABHYAVARTI.

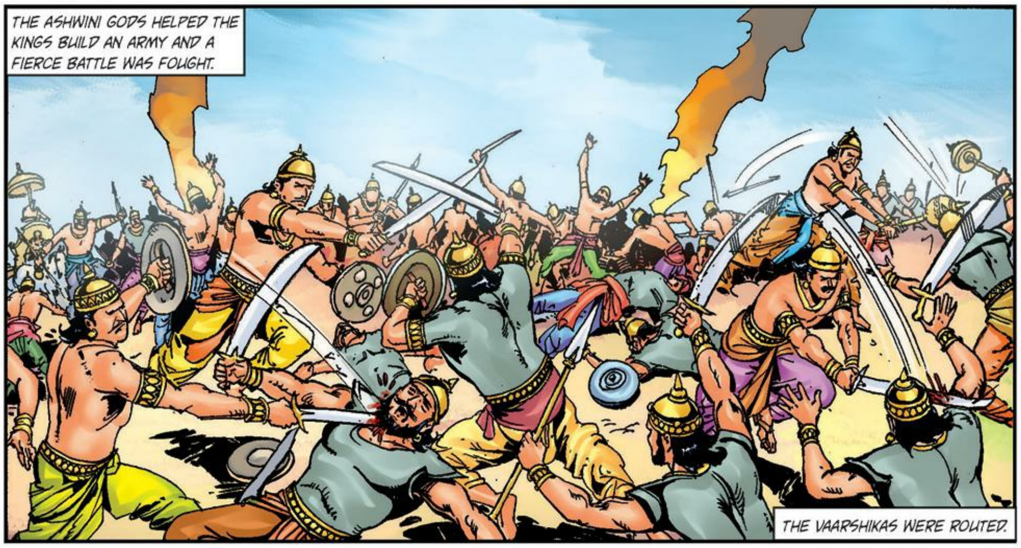

ONE DAY A GROUP OF RAKSHASAS, CALLED VAARSHIKA, ATTACKED KASHI.
RUN FOR YOUR LIFE!
AIEEEEE!

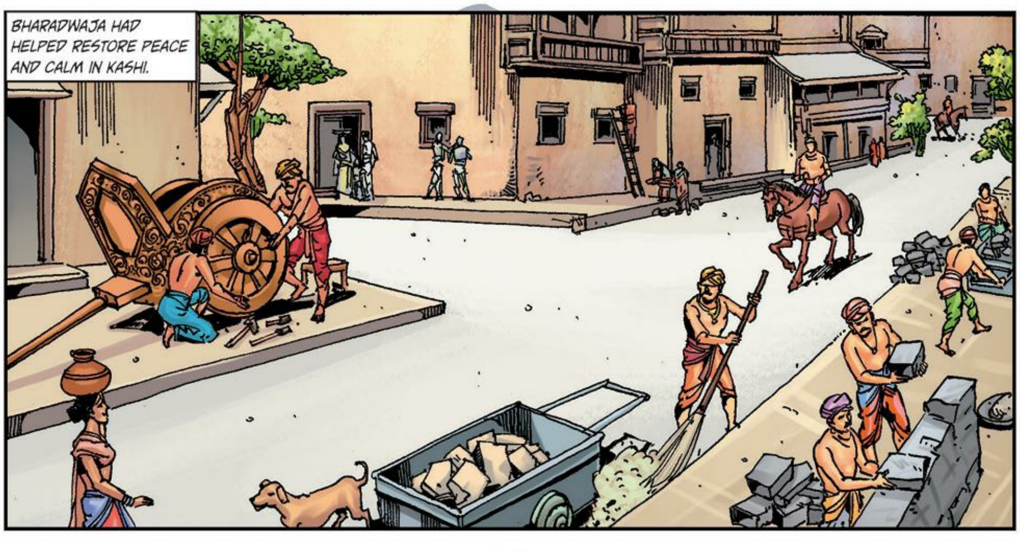

KING DIVODASA, AN ALLY OF KING ABHYAVARTI, JOINED HANDS WITH HIM TO FIGHT THE RAKSHASAS.

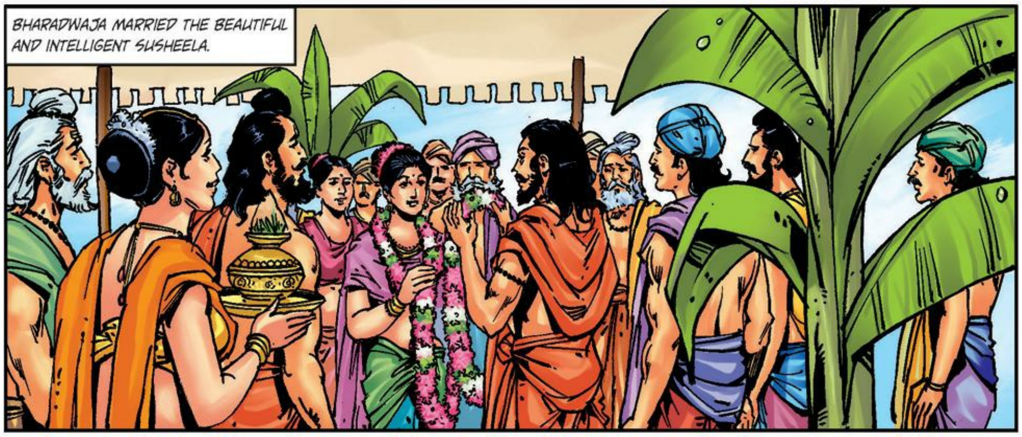

THE VAARSHIKA DEFEATED BOTH OF THEM.

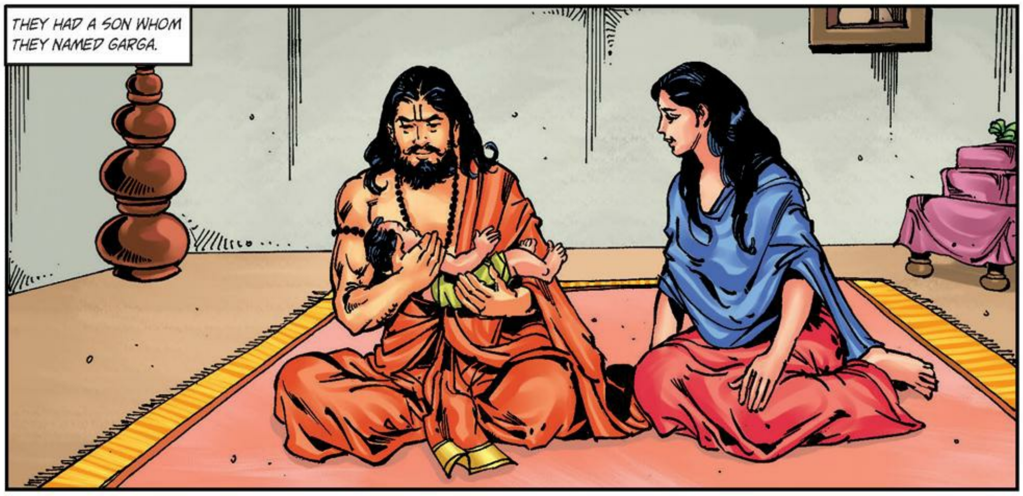

THE KINGS RUSHED TO BHARADWAJA.
WE WERE VERY BADLY DEFEATED BY THE VAARSHIKA RAKSHASAS.
WE HAVE COME HERE FOR YOUR PROTECTION.
THE USUALLY CALM SAGE GREW WILD WITH ANGER.
SHAME ON YOU! YOU ARE KINGS! YOU HAVE TO FIGHT UNTIL YOUR LAST BREATH. GO BACK TO THE BATTLEFIELD AND FIGHT THE ENEMY. PROTECT YOUR PEOPLE.
WE HAVE NO RESOURCES TO EVEN FEED OUR ARMY. THE VAARSHIKAS HAVE LOOTED EVERYTHING.
AND SO...
...BHARADWAJA PRAYED TO THE ASHWINIS.

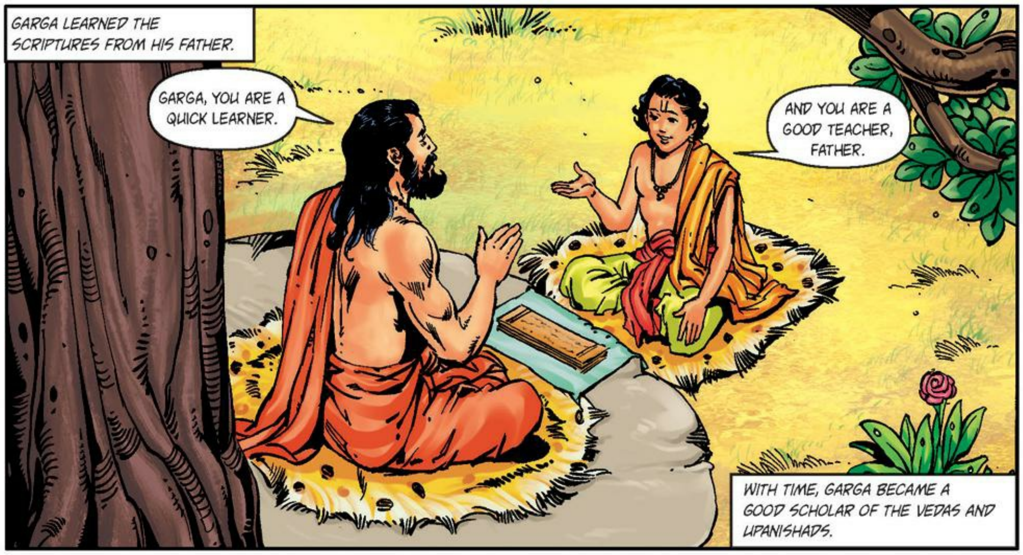

PLEASE HELP THE KINGS WITH ENOUGH WEALTH TO BUILD AN ARMY.

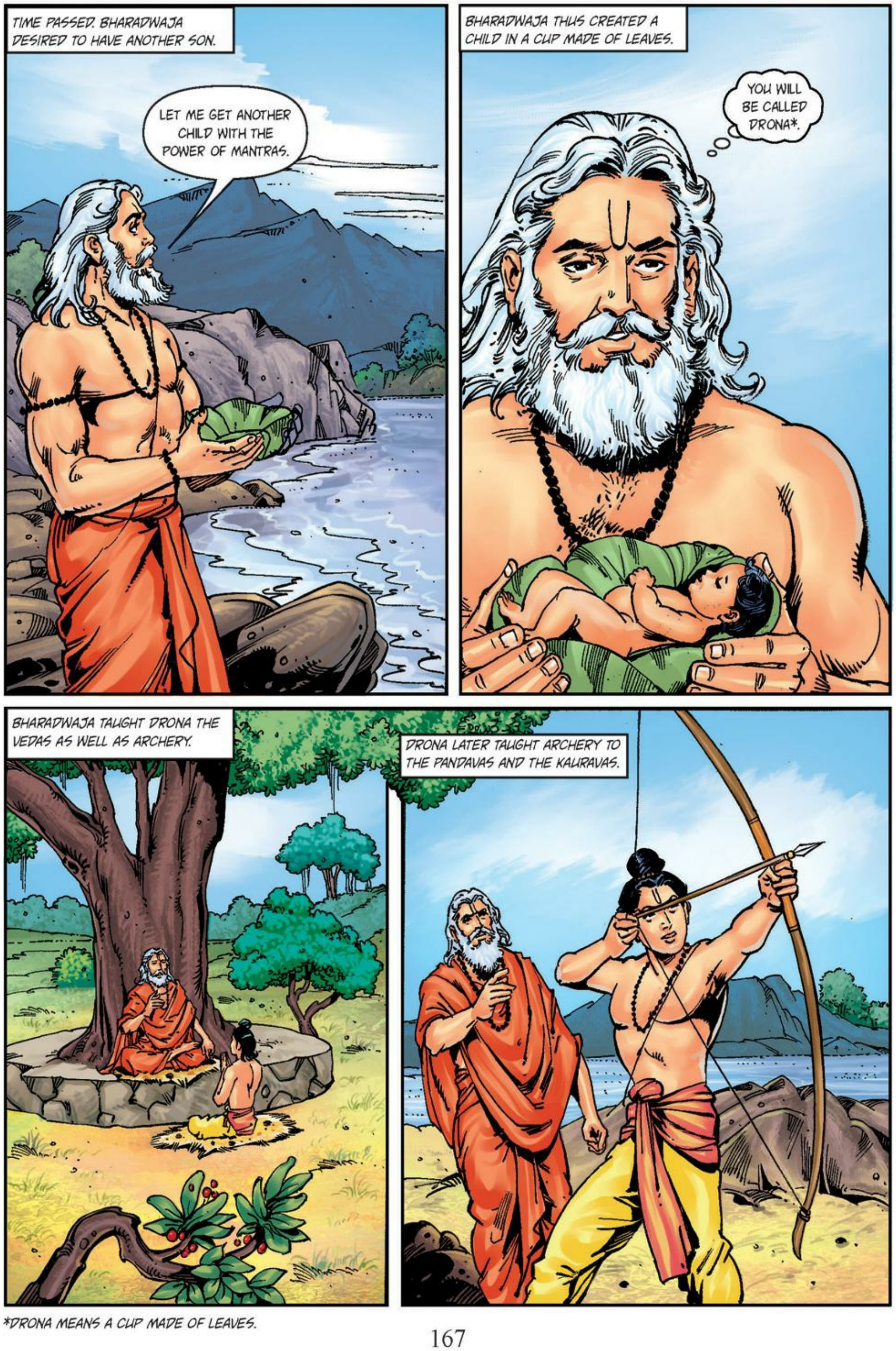

THE ASHWINI GODS HELPED THE KINGS BUILD AN ARMY AND A FIERCE BATTLE WAS FOUGHT.
THE VAARSHIKAS WERE ROUTED.


BHARADWAJA HAD HELPED RESTORE PEACE AND CALM IN KASHI.

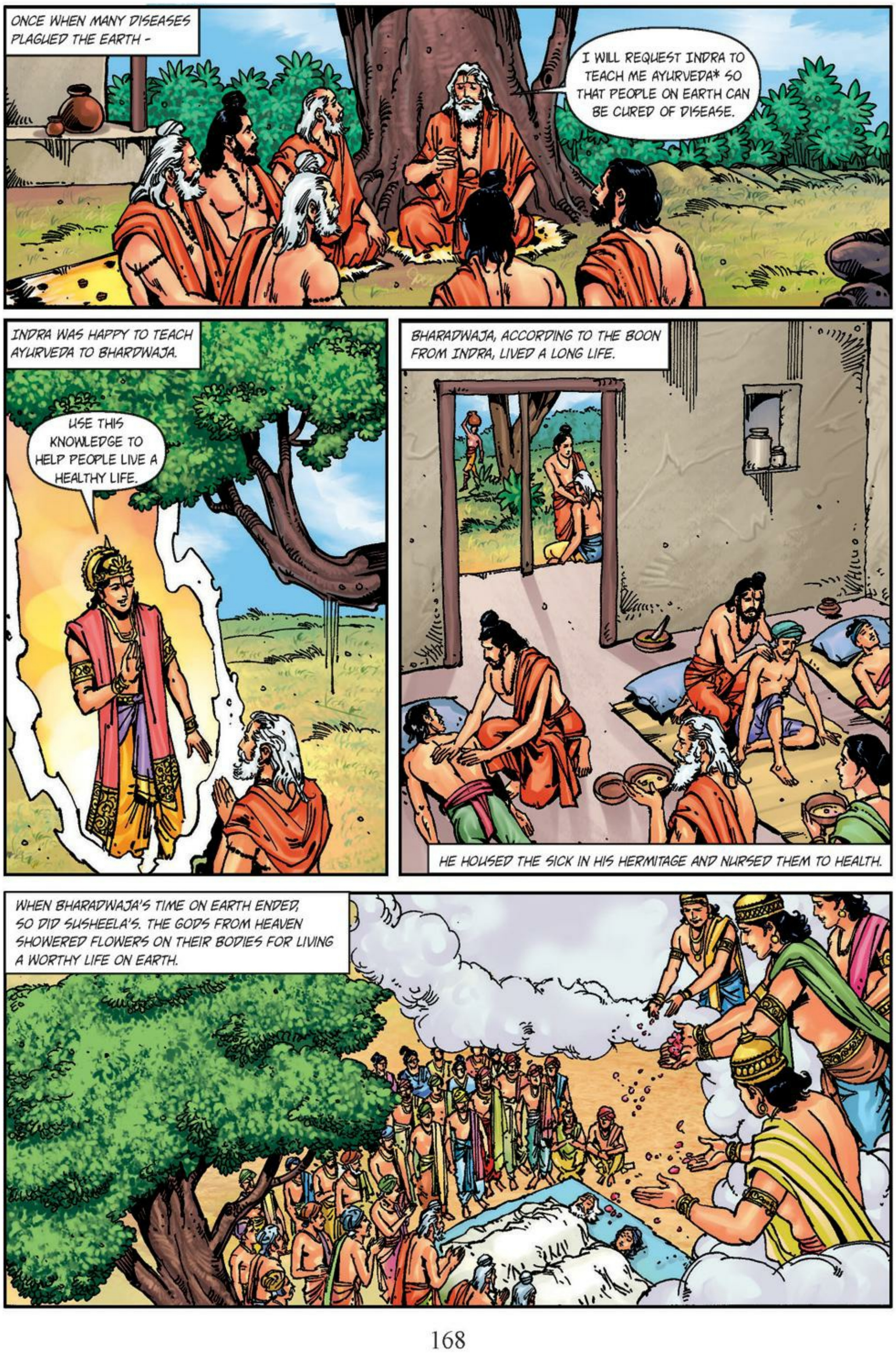

BHARADWAJA MARRIED THE BEAUTIFUL AND INTELLIGENT SUSHEELA.


THEY HAD A SON WHOM THEY NAMED GARGA.


GARGA LEARNED THE SCRIPTURES FROM HIS FATHER.
GARGA, YOU ARE A QUICK LEARNER.
AND YOU ARE A GOOD TEACHER, FATHER.
WITH TIME, GARGA BECAME A GOOD SCHOLAR OF THE VEDAS AND UPANISHADS.


TIME PASSED. BHARADWAJA DESIRED TO HAVE ANOTHER SON.
LET ME GET ANOTHER CHILD WITH THE POWER OF MANTRAS.
BHARADWAJA THUS CREATED A CHILD IN A CUP MADE OF LEAVES.
YOU WILL BE CALLED DRONA*.
BHARADWAJA TAUGHT DRONA THE VEDAS AS WELL AS ARCHERY.
DRONA LATER TAUGHT ARCHERY TO THE PANDAVAS AND THE KAURAVAS.

*DRONA MEANS A CUP MADE OF LEAVES.


ONCE WHEN MANY DISEASES PLAGUED THE EARTH -
I WILL REQUEST INDRA TO TEACH ME AYURVEDA* SO THAT PEOPLE ON EARTH CAN BE CURED OF DISEASE.
INDRA WAS HAPPY TO TEACH AYURVEDA TO BHARDWAJA.
USE THIS KNOWLEDGE TO HELP PEOPLE LIVE A HEALTHY LIFE.
BHARADWAJA, ACCORDING TO THE BOON FROM INDRA, LIVED A LONG LIFE.
HE HOUSED THE SICK IN HIS HERMITAGE AND NURSED THEM TO HEALTH.
WHEN BHARADWAJA'S TIME ON EARTH ENDED, SO DID SUSHEELA'S. THE GODS FROM HEAVEN SHOWERED FLOWERS ON THEIR BODIES FOR LIVING A WORTHY LIFE ON EARTH.

SAPTARSHI
The Seven Supreme Sages

In Indian mythology the concept of time is measured in a manavantara. Each manavantara is allotted seven exceptional sages by Brahma, who represent supreme knowledge and righteousness.

Amar Chitra Katha has captured stories from the inspiring and remarkable lives of the seven sages chosen to represent the current manavantara.

Atri, the first of the Saptarshis, is a mindborn son of Brahma. So enduring was his life and presence, that he played a role in the events of The Ramayana as well as The Mahabharata.

Vasishtha was the voice of wisdom and honesty during the time he spent advising the kings of the Solar dynasty. The mutual respect he shared with his admirable wife, Arundhati, was reflected in their exemplary marriage.

Tasked by Brahma to populate the Earth, Kashyapa is considered the father of all living beings. The origin of all creatures can be traced back to Kashyapa and his wives.

The proud King Kaushika's troubled relationship with Sage Vasishtha gave rise to his transformation into the accomplished sage, Vishwamitra.

Gautama and his wife, Ahalya, overcame the mistrust and insults of the people of Brahmagiri and brought Ganga to the parched land.

Jamadagni, who was a proficient student of the Vedas, was chosen by Vishnu to be his father during his avatar as Parashurama.

Bharadwaja's thirst of knowledge was so great that he prayed to Indra for a long life so he had enough time to learn. With Indra's blessing he spread the knowledge he gained, around the world.

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